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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

With a new minimum wage hike taking effect this week, what impact do you think it will have on the CNMI economy in general?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Memorial Day

President Bush paid tribute Monday to America's fighting men and women who died in battle.

NATION...Page 14

Flood Threat

Soldiers blow up earthquake debris blocking a river whose rising waters threatened to flood already-devastated towns and villages.

ASIA...Page 15

Best Chefs

Marianas Resort and Spa bested 14 other competitors to win first place in the 2008 Taste of the Marianas Chefs Competition held last Saturday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

House honors Hyatt GM von Siebenthal. **PAGE 3**

Guam governor asks NMI's forgiveness. **PAGE 6**

Ambulances used for transportation raising concerns

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
Rianne_Pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For several months now, the Emergency Medical Services has been providing transportation to dialysis patients, raising concerns that people in actual emergencies will not get timely care because the ambulances are busy elsewhere.

Of the 98 patients in the hemodialysis program and eight on the peritoneal dialysis program, two are being transported to the dialysis unit via ambulance and 11 are transported via Saipan Call-A-Ride.

According to Public Health Secre-

See AMBULANCE on Page 4

Stimulus checks out Friday

First batch of 11,000 rebate checks will be issued

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance will start releasing economic stimulus payments this Friday, Secretary Eloy S. Inos announced yesterday.

Inos

A first batch of approximately 11,000 rebate checks will be mailed out. This figure represents nearly half of the 23,000 income tax returns filed for 2007. The Finance Department will continue processing re-

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ANNUAL VOYAGE JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Micronesian Repatriation Association and Okinawa War Bereaved Family United Association offer prayers for those who passed away during World War II during the 39th Okinawa Peace Memorial Ceremony at the Okinawa Peace Tower, next to the Last Command post in Marpi Monday morning. *See related story on Page 2.*

US uses bullets not suited for modern war

By RICHARD LARDNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—As Sgt. Joe Higgins patrolled the streets of Saba al-Bor, a tough town north of Baghdad, he was armed with bullets that had a lot more firepower than those of his 4th Infantry Division buddies.

As an Army sniper, Higgins was one of the select few toting an M14. The long-barreled rifle, an imposing weapon built for wars long past, spits out bullets larger and more deadly than the rounds that fit into the M4 carbines and M16 rifles that most soldiers carry.

"Having a heavy cartridge in an urban environment like that was definitely a good choice," says Higgins, who did two tours in Iraq and left the service last year. "It just has more stopping power."

Strange as it sounds, nearly seven years into the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, bullets are a controversial subject for the U.S.

See US on Page 4

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Local

Okinawans makes 39th visit to memorial site

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A delegation of the Micronesian Repatriation Association of Okinawa arrived Wednesday on Saipan for their 39th annual pilgrimage tour to the CNMI.

At least 100 Okinawans young and old made it to this year's pilgrimage—a small number compared to the hundreds in previous years.

According to Pacific Development Inc. coordinator Gordon I. Marciano, the group is getting smaller "and for most of them that were born here, those they know have passed on and it's the same for them and they are hoping to meet with the families. For some it may be their last."

In a ceremony Monday morning at the Okinawa Peace Memorial Tower in Marpi, the visitors offered prayers to honor those who perished during World War II and to extend some of their prayers to those who are still in the midst of fighting in other countries.

They also commemorated the friendships that they have established with Saipan students since 1968.

"The association is not only here for the pilgrimage tour but also to visit their birthplace," Marciano said.

MRA chair Choken Ginoza said that the CNMI MRA members and the Okinawa community will continue to hold the ceremony to honor the memories of those who fought during World War II.

"The memorial service is dedicated to all those who lost their lives during the WWII and our prayers will be extended to those who are still faced with the war in their countries," said Ginoza.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Japanese Consul General Tsutomu Higuchi, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Rep. Tina Sablan, Rep. Ed Salas, Rep. Ralph Torres, Sen. Pete Reyes, House Speaker Arnold Palacios, Public Auditor Mike Sablan, Rep. Ray Palacios and other CNMI officials showed up at the site to pay their respects.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Micronesian Repatriation Association and Okinawa War Bereaved Family United Association offer prayers during the 39th Okinawa Peace Memorial Ceremony at the Okinawa Peace Tower, next to the Last Command post in Marpi Monday morning.

MRA representatives said that Okinawa has a proud culture that has long promoted peace in the conduct of government and in ruling the country.

They said that, for more than 600 years, they have decorated their homes with the shamisen, a traditional guitar, instead of weapons. "It is of because this harmony and rhythm from shamisen that ties the hearts to everyone as one," the delegates said.

The MRA believes that in order to build a peaceful world, it is important for each citizen to understand each other and promote communication based on trust.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 08-029

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the **Purchase and Delivery of Mobility Equipped Vans**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 08-029" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than June 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 08-029, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and one (1)-copy). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl de la Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, technical questions may be e-mailed to the following address: **delacruzc@pss.cnmi.mp**.

General inquiries may be directed to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at telephone numbers 237-3068 / 3035.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Carl F. de la Cruz
Acting P&S Officer

'Lizama not yet off the hook'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Although Juan T. Lizama had already resigned from the bench he is not yet off the hook in the unethical acts complaint filed against him before the CNMI Supreme Court.

Lizama

NMI Judiciary's public information officer Virginia L. Gridley told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the complaint against Lizama is still pending in the Supreme Court.

"Regarding the Supreme Court case in which Judge Lizama is being prosecuted, his retirement does not affect the case," said Gridley when asked on the status of the case.

Lizama stepped down from the bench effective last Saturday.

Gridley said the hearing in the case is not scheduled yet so she does not have more information to release.

In 2007, unethical charges were filed against the then associate judge before the high court.

Chief justice Miguel S. Demapan and associate justices Alexandro C. Castro and John A. Manglona appointed Bruce A. Bradley, a member of the CNMI Bar Association, to prosecute the disciplinary proceeding against Lizama.

According to court records, on April 10, 2007, Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja sent a letter to chief justice Demapan regarding alleged judicial misconduct. The Supreme Court treated the letter as a disciplinary complaint and initiated the proceedings.

Retired Guam judge Benson, who was appointed as investigative judge, found reasonable cause to submit the complaint against Lizama to the Supreme Court for a formal hearing.

The justices appointed Bradley to prosecute the disciplinary proceeding. Bradley is currently the ethics prosecutor for the Guam Supreme Court.

Lizama is reportedly planning to run as CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. He submitted his letter of resignation to Naraja last Wednesday.

In 2003, Lizama became the first judge in the CNMI to be retained. His term was supposed to last until 2010.

House honors Hyatt's von Siebenthal

The House of Representatives has adopted a resolution honoring a hotel official for his contributions to the Commonwealth.

Michael von Siebenthal has served as general manager of the Hyatt Regency Saipan since 2001. Over the past seven years, he has instituted major upgrades to the hotel and has been an active member of the community.

He will soon transfer to the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Fukuoka, Japan.

Siebenthal

"[The] members of the House of Representatives recognizes and commends Mr. Michael von Siebenthal, general manager of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, for his professional accomplishments and active involvement in the community. …[We] wish him and his family the best of luck in his new position at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Fukuoka, Japan," stated the resolution introduced by Rep. Edward Salas and adopted by the House on Friday.

Under von Siebanthal's leadership, Hyatt Regency Saipan did major upgrades to the hotel including renovation of employee locker rooms, and the addition of the I Sagua Spa valued at $1.4 million, female Club Elan locker room, aerobics/yoga room, and staff housing estimated at $6.5 million.

During his stay on Saipan, he held important roles in numerous business organizations. He has served as a board member and secretary of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, active member of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce where he served as a member of the Government Relations Committee, member of the Strategic Economic Development Council, member of the Marianas Visitors Authority, and co-chair of the Garapan Transformation Project.

He has also served as vice president of the Northern Marianas College Foundation and chairman of the NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament for the past three years. He was instrumental in raising about $400,000 for the foundation.

Furthermore, von Siebenthal has headed the annual Club at the Hyatt golf tournament with proceeds benefiting the Make-A-Wish Foundation for the past seven years.

On behalf of the Hyatt, von Siebenthal has supported community causes and events such as the American Red Cross, Beautify CNMI!, Marianas March Against Cancer, and Taste of the Marianas.

"Mr. Michael von Siebenthal was not only an exceptional general manager of the Hyatt Regency Saipan, but also an upstanding member of our community," the House resolution said. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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Edong wins big in tattoo contest in Thailand

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Local tattoo artist Dragon Edong won first place in the "Tattoo of the Day" category at the 2nd Annual World Tattoo & Arts Festival in Bangkok, Thailand, last May 16-18, 2008.

Using a picture of his three children as his design, he impressed the judges enough to win first place out of 17 opponents. The contest was judged on originality, creativity, and placement on the body.

"There were some people there that wanted to volunteer [to be tattooed], but I didn't want to do it for free so. I decided to do it on my wife," he said.

It took him three hours to get the tattoo done on the back of his wife, Fe.

Edong competed against contestants from the United States, United Kingdom (London), Japan, Italy, Singapore, Taiwan, New Zealand, France, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, Canada, and Norway.

The three-day event had four categories. Edong participated in the "best tattoo of the day" category during the final day of the festival.

CONTIBUTED PHOTO
Dragon Edong's award winning design, a portrait of his son and daughters tattooed on the back of his wife Fe.

About 50 artists participated in this event, which was intended to educate people about safety in tattooing, and to broaden their mind that it's not bad at all.

Edong said that tattooing has always been his interest for 28 years because he finds it unique. "I learned to do it by myself. Also, I think it runs in the family," he said.

He took up a four-year course in Fine Arts in the Philippines. "Bon Ten also trained me in Japan. He taught me the Japanese style during the samurai times."

This December, Edong will be going to the International Tattoo Convention in the Philippines. "I usually go to three festivals a year," he added.

Edong will be selling t-shirts and hats with his own art designs called "Kooleksions." The grand opening will be on May 31.

For more information, check out his website at www.saipantatufest.com or www.eldrakottattoo.com. You can also visit his office at Mega Vision El Dragon Tattoo Studio in Garapan.

Dragon Edong in action during the 2nd World Tattoo & Arts Festival held in Pattaya, Thailand.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CNMI tattoo artist Dragon Edong poses yesterday inside his new Kooleksions Shop inside the Megavision El Drako studio in Garapan. The shop will have its grand opening on May 31.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PAWS president Busenkell joins AGO

Busenkell

Pet Assistance and Welfare Services president Katie Busenkell has joined the Office of the Attorney General.

Busenkell confirmed with the Saipan Tribune yesterday that she started work at the AGO last week.

The new prosecutor said she would be doing immigration cases that are currently being handled by chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch.

Lynch replaced Jeffery Warfield Sr. as chief of the AGO's Criminal Division.

Busenkell refused to comment when asked about the scope of her new job.

Busenkell used to work for two years as law clerk for Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo.

Under her leadership at PAWS, the association has been very active in the community about animal welfare education and beautification program, among other things. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

STIMULUS

From Page 1

turns and issuing checks through December 2008.

He said the checks will be released in no particular order—not by name, by social security number, or by the date the income tax return was filed. The 10,000 checks expected for release this Friday are for taxpayers who have filed returns properly and who have been found eligible for the economic stimulus payments.

"We are not looking at who [filed the return]. Any return that went into the system and passed would go right into check writing," Inos said.

The Finance Department is working to iron out problems seen in the remaining returns. "This is going to be a continuing process. We are working in the fastest way possible," said Inos.

The rebates range up to $600 for an individual and $1,200 for a couple. Families with children will get $300 per child. The law guarantees workers who earned at least $3,000 in 2007 will receive at least a $300 tax rebate.

The rebates would phase out gradually for single taxpayers whose adjusted gross incomes exceeds $75,000 and for couples with incomes over $150,000.

The rebates were the centerpiece of the U.S. government's $168 billion economic stimulus package enacted in February and are designed to bolster consumer spending and stir the sluggish economy.

Inos said he has only one request for taxpayers receiving the stimulus checks: "I hope they spend it in the local economy—pay their CUC bills, buy essential stuff in the stores."

It seems Inos did not need to make the plea. With the recent doubling of power rates, many local residents say they are counting on rebate checks to help pay their utility bills.

Dexter Macaranas, a records assistant at the courts, said he is setting $200 aside for his bills. He also plans to buy new shoes and clothes—"something for myself"—with $100. The rest, he will deposit in his savings account.

Sol Dayao, an accountant, said she will use the money for her children's school fees. Both her sons attend private schools. Registration for the next school year opens in August.

AMBULANCE

From Page 1

tary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, "There is always a concern that the ambulances will be tied up with other emergencies and cannot transport some of these patients to CHC [Commonwealth Health Center]."

He said the main reason for using ambulances to transport these patients is that they are either bedridden or need the assistance of EMS personnel to be transported to CHC.

Call-A-Ride clients have also expressed their concerns over the growing number of dialysis patients seeking transportation assistance from the Saipan Call-A-Ride.

This has caused people to be late for work and at times absent for days at time as there is not enough transportation, according to Lydia Igitol, head of the Center for Living Independently.

The program currently has one accessible van and one minivan providing transportation for up to 700 people with disabilities.

According to Villagomez, a new company will emerge in the coming weeks to provide transportation services to dialysis patients to and from their scheduled dialysis appointments.

"This service is reimbursable by Medicare and while the EMS ambulance may at times be taxed to transport these patients, they are being paid by the Medicare program to do this transportation. In fact, some of the funds to keep the ambulances running well and stocked with supplies come from funds realized by transporting dialysis patients to and from their dialysis appointments," Villagomez said.

US

From Page 1

The smaller, steel-penetrating M855 rounds continue to be a weak spot in the American arsenal. They are not lethal enough to bring down an enemy decisively, and that puts troops at risk, according to Associated Press interviews.

Designed decades ago to puncture a Soviet soldier's helmet hundreds of yards away, the M855 rounds are being used for very different targets in Iraq and Afghanistan. Much of today's fighting takes place in close quarters; narrow streets, stairways and rooftops are today's battlefield. Legions of armor-clad Russians marching through the Fulda Gap in Germany have given way to insurgents and terrorists who hit and run.

Fired at short range, the M855 round is prone to pass through a body like a needle through fabric. That does not mean being shot is a pain-free experience. But unless the bullet strikes a vital organ or the spine, the adrenaline-fueled enemy may have the strength to keep on fighting and even live to fight another day.

In 2006, the Army asked a private research organization to survey 2,600 soldiers who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nearly one-fifth of those who used the M4 and M16 rifles wanted larger caliber bullets.

Yet the Army is not changing. The answer is better aim, not bigger bullets, officials say.

"If you hit a guy in the right spot, it doesn't matter what you shoot him with," said Maj. Thomas Henthorn, chief of the small arms division at Fort Benning, Ga., home to the Army's infantry school.

At about 33 cents each, bullets do not get a lot of public attention in Washington, where the size of the debate is usually measured by how much a piece of equipment costs. But billions of M855 rounds have been produced, and Congress is preparing to pay for many more. The defense request for the budget year that begins Oct. 1 seeks $88 million for 267 million M855s, each one about the size of a AAA battery.

None of the M855's shortcomings is surprising, said Don Alexander, a retired Army chief warrant officer with combat tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Somalia.

"The bullet does exactly what it was designed to do. It just doesn't do very well at close ranges against smaller-statured people that are lightly equipped and clothed," says Alexander, who spent most of his 26-year military career with the 5th Special Forces Group.

Paul Howe was part of a U.S. military task force 15 years ago in Mogadishu, Somalia's slum-choked capital, when he saw a Somali fighter hit in the back from about a dozen feet away with an M855 round.

"I saw it poof out the other side through his shirt," says Howe, a retired master sergeant and a former member of the Army's elite Delta Force. "The guy just spun around and looked at where the round came from. He got shot a couple more times, but the first round didn't faze him."

With the M855, troops have to hit their targets with more rounds, said Howe, who owns a combat shooting school in Texas. That can be tough to do under high-stress conditions when one shot is all a soldier might get.

"The bullet is just not big enough," he says. "If I'm going into a room against somebody that's determined to kill me, I want to put him down as fast as possible."

Dr. Martin Fackler, a former combat surgeon and a leading authority on bullet injuries, said the problem is the gun, not the bullet. The M4 rifle has a 14.5 inch barrel—too short to create the velocity needed for an M855 bullet to do maximum damage to the body.

"The faster a bullet hits the tissue, the more it's going to fragment," says Fackler. "Bullets that go faster cause more damage. It's that simple."

Authorities bust alleged car insurance scam

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Authorities have busted a group of persons who were allegedly involved in a car insurance scam, possibly in connivance with a law enforcer.

Saipan Tribune learned that police arrested over the weekend two suspects—an insurance company employee and a former staff of another insurance firm.

The two men were taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, who appeared not aware of the scheduled hearing, talked with chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch. After a brief moment, Naraja announced that the case against the two defendants is sealed.

Sources said that investigators have already arrested a woman and questioned a law enforcer of his possible involvement in the scam.

Sources said the Attorney General's Investigative Unit is the one leading the investigation at request of an insurance company that is a victim of the scam.

In the scam, the suspects involved are insurance company employee or employees, auto shops, and a law enforcer.

The suspects would collect money from the insurance company by filing fraudulent police reports about vehicular accidents.

A minor accident would be reported as major damage to the vehicle.

A police report on a car accident that actually never happened would also be produced to collect insurance benefits.

"The investigators have been looking into this scam for more than two years now," another source disclosed.

Notorious burglar arrested anew for break-in

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Notorious convicted burglar Seiichi Aoki was arrested again for allegedly breaking into a residence on Saipan Sunday night.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman increased Aoki's $10,000 cash bail to $50,000, considering the criminal history of the 23-year-old suspect.

"You are a repeat offender," said Wiseman, reading the defendant's long criminal history.

The judge set the preliminary hearing for June 4 at 9am.

Assistant attorney general Michael N. Evangelista asserted that the government's position is that the $10,000 cash bail should not be reduced and that it is the court's discretion whether to increase it.

Evangelista said that Aoki has demonstrated a continuing disregard for the laws of the Commonwealth and the terms and conditions of his probations.

Detective Abraham C. Villagomez stated in his report that on Sunday at 8:41pm the Department of Public Safety's Central Office received a call from an anonymous caller, reporting that he saw an unidentified person entering a neighbor's house.

The caller said he heard a loud noise coming from the back of his neighbor's house and its occupants were not home at that time.

Responding police officers approached the house, but the lights inside were then turned off. One officer noticed that the blinds in one of the windows slightly opened then closed again.

When the officer kicked open the bedroom's door, which was slightly ajar and asked if anyone was inside, a smiling Aoki came to the door.

Aoki at that time was wearing a baseball cap that he admitted he took from one of the bedrooms.

Police learned that the defendant managed to enter the house through the bathroom window.

Evangelista stated in court documents that on Sept. 13, 2006, Aoki pleaded guilty to burglary in 2006 case and was sentenced to one year in jail, all suspended except for 30 days. Evangelista said the defendant was then placed on probation for three years.

On May 31, 2007, Aoki pleaded guilty to burglary and escape in another 2006 case. He was sentenced to one year in prison, all suspended except for 165 days. He was placed on one-year probation, which is set to expire on May 31, 2008.

Aoki is currently scheduled for a change of plea hearing on June 5, 2008 in another case in 2008. The charges in that case include criminal mischief and riot, according to the prosecutor.

House split on bill clipping governor's emergency powers

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives are closely divided on a bill clipping the governor's powers to declare a state of disaster emergency.

The House, by a vote of 10-8, passed the bill on first and final reading on Friday despite some members' strong reservations about the language of the bill.

Those who voted against the bill are Reps. Oscar Babauta, Frank Dela Cruz, Heinz Hofschneider, Ray Palacios, Justo Quitugua, Edward Salas, Edwin Aldan, and Tina Sablan. Reps. Rosemond Santos and Ralph Torres were absent.

Rep. Joseph James Camacho introduced the bill in the wake of the governor's emergency declaration for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, which is facing technical default on its airport revenue bonds due to financial problems.

Camacho and other proponents of the bill said that the governor should not be able to use emergency powers to deal with financial hardship. They maintained that such powers should only be allowed in extreme cases such as an invasion, civil disturbance, natural disaster, or calamity.

They also argued that existing laws provide enough means for the government to deal with a financial crisis without the governor having to use emergency powers.

The lawmakers, according to Sablan, are concerned that the provision banning emergency declarations due to financial crisis or hardship "might be overly broad, and tie the hands of the Governor in situations when financial crisis could conceivably be a cause of true disaster situations."

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was offered as an example. She said: "If the financial insolvency of the agency were to cripple the agency's ability to purchase fuel or treat wastewater and the community were to face imminent total blackouts island-wide, or sewage overflowing in the streets, would that not constitute a state of emergency brought on by financial hardship?"

The lawmakers asked that final passage of the bill be delayed until the language of the bill has been refined.

But Camacho, who is the floor leader, insisted that the bill needed to pass on first and final reading, and that amendments, if any, should be made at that moment.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-08-2292

For: **REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATION SERVICES FOR THE JAPAN MARKET**

Closing Date: **June 20, 2008** Time: **3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time)**

Submit sealed proposals to: The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 510008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the MVA Saipan office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday) except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s/ PERRY JOHN P. TENORIO
Managing Director

WANTED: 1 Accountant

Qualifications

- Minimum 2 years manufacturing accounting experience
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Submit cover letter, resume and any related materials in Adobe Acrobat or MS Word format via email to: employment201@gmail.com.

WANTED: 1 Chief Accountant

An 80-employee, multi million dollar wholesale/retail/ manufacturing company in Saipan, CNMI requires a Chief Accountant responsible for the oversight of all accounting functions, including inventory, invoicing and accounts receivable, fixed assets, accounts payable, payroll, and cost of production analysis. The successful applicant will also be responsible for the preparation of accurate monthly and annual financial reports. Position calls for extensive knowledge of computerized accounting software and functions. Ability to work as a team player in a fast paced atmosphere is required.

Qualifications

- CPA designation with a minimum of 5 years manufacturing accounting experience.
- Familiarity with Peachtree Premium accounting software.
- Demonstrated understanding of cost accounting principles.
- Demonstrated understanding of integrated perpetual inventory accounting concepts.
- Demonstrated understanding of computerized payroll accounting systems.
- Ability to prepare monthly work papers to for the purpose of adjusting general ledger for accurate and timely financial statement preparation
- Demonstrated understanding of MS Excel integrated modeling concepts for the preparation of trend and "what if" analyses.
- Staff management experience.

Deliverables

- Assume responsibility of accounting staff consisting of accounts receivable accountant, cost accountant, accounts payable, and inventory accountant, to ensure that work is performed in an accurate and timely manner.
- Assume responsibility for the biweekly processing of payroll.
- Maintain and amortize prepaid expenses.
- Supervise monthly physical inventory count and pricing, ensuring a proper cutoff.
- Prepare monthly work papers to show the correct month-end balances for assets and liabilities, the appropriate accruals and general journal entries.
- Assemble and organize the work papers for review by the Controller.
- Prepare monthly financial statements along with graphical representation of sales and analytical review commentary of significant changes in sales, cost of operations and expenses.

In order to demonstrate an understanding of the job requirements, applicant should submit, along with their resumes and references, a written narrative of their approach to the job and how they would meet the deliverables.

Salary commensurate with experience – applicants should indicate desired salary range. Résumé and related materials should be submitted in Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word format via email to: employment201@gmail.com.

Guam governor asks CNMI's forgiveness for vote vs unity

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho has asked the Commonwealth's people for forgiveness for Guam's vote against reintegration with the CNMI back in 1969.

"As the governor of Guam and on behalf of my people, I ask for forgiveness for the rejection that happened in 1969. This is not the first time that I've asked for it, it is actually the second time," Camacho said.

The governor of Guam said that a couple of years ago, while on island to participate in the National Day of Prayer, he had asked for forgiveness from the people of the CNMI for what had happened. He said he believes it's "absolutely necessary because we just cannot let the bitterness transcend from one generation to another."

The people of Guam voted against reintegration with the CNMI on Nov. 4, 1969. One theory behind the rejection is that it came as a pay back to the Northern Marianas Chamorros for their assistance to Japanese forces during the occupation of Guam. Another theory is that the reunification issue "simply lost its significance when compared to the pending election of the first governor of Guam, which was scheduled to take place the following year."

In 1970, the late Carlos Garcia Camacho, who is Camacho's father, became the first governor of Guam to be elected by its people. Before that he was an incumbent governor appointed by then U.S. President Richard Nixon.

According to Camacho, "never once in my lifetime, did my father nor my mother spoke on the issue of war and how it related to the vote in 1969. Never did they bring up resentment against the people of Saipan. In fact, it's only during my lifetime when I became governor did it really become apparent."

He said he wishes his father is still around to tell him what had happened, and what was going on with the people on the two separate islands at the time.

According to history, the vote against reintegration did not put the issue to rest. On March 10, 1970, the Northern Marianas Legislature passed another resolution asking the United Nations to give the Northern Marianas the right to reintegrate with Guam.

On Feb. 19, 1971, an additional resolution was passed informing the United Nations that the Marina Islands District would secede from the rest of Micronesia, with or without U.N. approval and by force of arms if necessary, unless the Northern Marianas were given the authority to negotiate their political status directly with the United States.

During the pre-dawn hours of the following day, the Halls of Congress of Micronesia building on Saipan was set on fire.

Camacho said the most fundamental aspect to reunification is forgiveness.

"Forgiveness is a choice. Not an option. And as a people, we need to make this choice. When we forgive we are not just doing it for the other person, we're doing it for ourselves. When we hold on to 'unforgiveness' and hold on to grudges, all we're doing is building walls of separation," Camacho said.

He added that many people who hold on to grudges think they are only protecting themselves. "But truly they are not. They are simply shutting people out of their lives—they become isolated alone, warped, and imprisoned by their own bitterness," said Camacho.

He advised: "You must tear down the walls, you must forgive the people who hurt you, so you can get out of prison. You'll never be free until you do so and let go of those wrongs they've done to you."

According to press secretary Charles Reyes, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial "enjoys a very close working relationship with Governor Felix Camacho and respects his views."

Process in confirming PUC appointees pushed

A lawmaker has offered ideas to help formalize the confirmation process for nominees to the Public Utilities Commission.

Rep. Tina Sablan submitted her list of recommendations in the wake of the governor's submission of two more nominations to the PUC. Accountant David Burger and former Commonwealth Utilities Commission director Laura Manglona are awaiting confirmation by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Sablan, in a memorandum to Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, said the nominees should be required to submit background documents before any formal confirmation hearing.

She also suggested that confirmation hearings be conducted jointly by the PUTC standing committees in both the House and Senate. She said these hearings should be open to the public, and announced at least two weeks early to allow members of the public to submit testimony or additional information that may be useful to the Legislature in reviewing the nominations.

In addition, she said, appointees should be required to submit a testimony detailing their background and qualifications, including declarations of any conflict of interest, a statement of understanding of the issues facing public utilities and how they plan to help solve them, and a description of actions the nominees would pursue if confirmed to PUC.

The controversy over the confirmation of PUC member Kimberlyn King-Hinds highlighted the lack of a formal process for confirming PUC appointees. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Iraq funding bill expands GI benefits

Included in the Iraq Supplemental funding bill passed by the U.S. Senate on May 22 are expanded GI educational benefits. Developed by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D, HI) and Sen. Jim Webb (D, VA), the educational assistance package benefits all armed service members who have served on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, including activated reservists and the National Guard.

The expanded benefits provided under this title will allow veterans pursuing an approved program of education to receive payments up to the cost of the most expensive in-state public school, plus a monthly stipend equivalent to housing costs in their area.

"This is very exciting for many of our young people who have volunteered to serve their country since the devastating terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Our country owes them a lot for putting their lives on the line to protect us," said Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio.

"Over the last six years I have had many opportunities to speak to our young men and women in uniform, and have been touched by their sense of duty and dedication to our country. I have also been saddened when many of them have told me that they felt the military was their only option, because there were no jobs in the CNMI for them. This new program will make it easier for them to get an education once they have completed their enlistment," added Tenorio.

The GI education assistance section outlines that in order to qualify, veterans must have served at least three to 36 months of qualified active duty, beginning on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Educational benefits will be paid in amounts linked to the amount of active duty served in the military after Sept. 11. Veterans would receive some amount of assistance proportional to their service for 36 months (four academic years). They will still be eligible to receive any incentive-based supplemental education assistance from their military branch for which they qualify.

"This increased assistance level will help existing local programs such as Troops-to-Teachers. I have been in contact with Northern Marianas College advising them of this possibility and offering assistance if needed with implementation. Educating and retaining our youth is important especially in these dire economic times," said Tenorio.

The Iraq supplemental bill will return to the House after the Memorial Day recess. The bill also contains requirements for numerous studies to be done on the CNMI's economy and the impact of minimum wage. ***(PR)***

Local group questions Benedetto's motives

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribunbe.com
REPORTER

TaoTao Tano president Greg Cruz has questioned the motives of Labor Ombudsman Jim Benedetto after the federal official refused to turn over to the Department of Labor his office's documents regarding the $6.1 million owed hundreds of alien workers.

Cruz said that since the beginning of the federal immigration control issue, "Mr. Benedetto had interfered with our local labor and immigration laws, duplicating labor complaint issues, participated in a Unity March alongside nonresident guest workers who are in fact his clients, harboring illegal aliens, [and] instigated or collaborated with foreign guest workers. … Today he is refusing to cooperate with our local labor authorities in providing a copy of the reported unpaid labor complaint cases unless his clients are given some type of assurance, such as immunity from deportation if they are found overstaying?"

Benedetto had said that he took the action because Labor could provide no assurance that the data would not be used against guest workers. He said he was willing to turn over the documents if he had assurances that the records would be used to go after the employers and bonding companies who owed the money, and not the workers.

"Labor was unwilling to give such assurances," he said.

Cruz says he wants to know how many of the labor complaints are against local employers and if they are legitimate.

"We have reasons to believe that a majority of foreign owned business establishments that have closed shop have long gone, without any possibility of locating them for collections of uncollected labor awards," Cruz said.

He added that neither the "government or federal wants to spend taxpayers monies sending labor or immigration enforcement agents to locate this [sic] employers."

Cruz said: "We cannot just extend permanent residency or hand out green cards in order to correct this mess. Neither government can unilaterally extend such provisions without the consent of the other. It's called 'mutual consent.'"

MINA sets general membership meeting

The Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, MINA, will be holding its annual 2008 general membership meeting at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in the Azucena Room this Friday, May 30, starting at 6pm.

"We will be having an overall presentation of our activities that have happened in the past year and elect new board members. There will be a free dinner buffet for all active MINA members," said interim MINA executive director Chuck Sayon.

For those members who have let their paid membership lapse or expire, there will be an opportunity to renew their membership. Those would like to join "on the spot" will also be able to do so at the meeting.

MINA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the diverse natural resources of the Northern Mariana Islands. MINA's members come from all walks of life and are tied together by the clear understanding that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands have the right and responsibility to act as stewards of one's own natural inheritance.

MINA currently has a nine-member board of directors and more than 90 active individual and business members.

For those people interested in joining please come. To find out more information regarding what MINA is all about and/or to RSVP for the dinner meeting call Sayon at 322-7208. ***(MINA)***

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MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/17 SAT	5/15 THU	5/5 MON	5/22 THU	5/6 TUE	5/10 SAT	5/23 FRI	5/19 MON	5/18 SUN	5/13 TUE	5/4 SUN	5/19 MON	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	017E	5/24 SAT	5/22 THU	5/12 MON	5/29 THU	5/13 TUE	5/17 SAT	5/30 FRI	5/26 MON	5/25 SUN	5/20 TUE	5/11 SUN	5/26 MON	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT
MELL SENOKO	005E	5/31 SAT	5/29 THU	5/19 MON	6/5 THU	5/20 TUE	5/24 SAT	6/6 FRI	6/2 MON	6/1 SUN	5/27 TUE	5/18 SUN	6/2 MON	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/7 SAT	6/5 THU	5/26 MON	6/12 THU	5/27 TUE	5/31 SAT	6/13 FRI	6/9 MON	6/8 SUN	6/3 TUE	5/25 SUN	6/9 MON	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	018E	6/14 SAT	6/12 THU	6/2 MON	6/19 THU	6/3 TUE	6/7 SAT	6/20 FRI	6/16 MON	6/15 SUN	6/10 TUE	6/1 SUN	6/16 MON	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT
MELL SENOKO	006E	6/21 SAT	6/19 THU	6/9 MON	6/26 THU	6/10 TUE	6/14 SAT	6/27 FRI	6/23 MON	6/22 SUN	6/17 TUE	6/8 SUN	6/23 MON	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	5/31 SAT	SKIP	6/4 WED	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/17 TUE	6/15 SUN	6/18 WED
STADT HAMBURG	017E	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/11 WED	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/24 TUE	6/22 SUN	6/25 WED
MELL SENOKO	005E	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/14 SAT	SKIP	6/18 WED	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/1 TUE	6/29 SUN	7/2 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	010E	6/20 FRI	6/21 SAT	6/21 SAT	6/24 TUE	6/25 WED	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	7/1 TUE	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/8 TUE	7/6 SUN	7/9 WED
STADT HAMBURG	018E	6/27 FRI	6/28 SAT	6/28 SAT	SKIP	7/2 WED	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/8 TUE	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/17 THU	7/15 TUE	7/13 SUN	7/16 WED
MELL SENOKO	006E	7/4 FRI	7/5 SAT	7/5 SAT	7/8 Tue	7/9 WED	7/11 FRI	7/12 SAT	7/15 TUE	7/18 FRI	7/19 SAT	7/24 THU	7/22 TUE	7/20 SUN	7/23 WED

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Moving the world

360 hosts fundraising for KRNM

The revolving restaurant, 360, atop the Marianas Business Plaza building in Susupe, will be holding a fundraising event for KRNM tomorrow, May 29, according to station manager Carl Pogue.

He said the restaurant would give the station 20 percent of all proceeds from lunches and dinners (and drinks) sold throughout the day and night.

"We'll get 20 percent of whatever the final numbers amount to. I'm really happy that we were able to lock down both lunches and dinners, in that it obviously increases the odds of more listeners participating—and gives them the chance to pick between enjoying the view during the day or night," said Pogue in a mass e-mail invitation.

Pogue said he would be at the restaurant from start to finish on Thursday, to enable him to talk one-on-one with individuals about station issues.

Reservations can be made at 234-3600.

KRNM operates on the FM band at 88.1 and 89.1 and is based out of the Northern Marianas College. Individuals wishing to donate to KRNM to keep the public radio going may call Pogue at 234-5498 ext. 1520; 234-5766; or fax at 235-0915; or e-mail him at carlp@nmcnet.edu or poguecarl@yahoo.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

NMC completes EEO and sexual harassment awareness training

As part of the Northern Marianas College's continuous efforts to enhance its employees' professional development and awareness of workplace rights, the faculty and staff recently completed a comprehensive Equal Employment Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Prevention Training.

The issues discussed at the training workshop included fundamentals of EEO and an overview of sexual harassment. Topics included identifying unlawful discriminations, illustrating recent court cases, following company policies and procedures before filing a complaint, discussing important updates from the EEO Commission, and encountering sexual harassment issues with problem-solving scenarios.

"The Northern Marianas College has always been committed to providing a healthy and productive workplace environment," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "Proactively ensuring that our employees are well informed of their rights and obligations are part of that commitment."

Frank Gibson of HR Support CNMI, who has had over 10 years' experience with EEO, facilitated the workshop. Gibson is also certified by the Society of Human Resources Management as a Senior Personnel Human Resources and Global Personnel Human Resources provider.

The workshop, which ran from March 18 to May 9, was scheduled for different times in order to maximize attendance of all the employees. Tinian employees participated in the training through video conferencing; the same training will be conducted on Rota next month. Each employee that attended the workshop received a certificate of completion. ***(NMC)***

BON VOYAGE
Shirley's Coffee Shop staff Myk Jacob, 20, center with glasses, poses with his colleagues during a farewell gathering at the Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe Monday afternoon. Jacob will move to Seattle on Thursday to pursue a college degree.
JACQUELINE HERANANDEZ

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterans briefing

This is to inform all combat veterans, their dependents and all concerned that on May 28 and 29, 2008, Catherine Illarmo the Department of Veterans Affairs Team Leader/LCSW from the Guam Vet Center will be on Saipan to give individual counseling to combat veterans. Anyone wishing to see Illarmo are urged to call her at 1-671-472-7161 or Ruth Coleman at the Veterans Affairs Office, 664-2650 to make an appointment. She will also take walk-ins.

Date, time and place of the briefing is as follows:

- May 28, 9:30am-4:30pm, Military/Veterans Office, Bldg 1364, Capitol Hill
- May 29, 9am-12pm, same place

Any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

NMC English Placement Test today

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting an English placement test today, May 28. The test will be conducted in Room D-1 and will run from 2pm to 5pm. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a $25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at NMC's Finance Office (M-F, 9am-4-pm). Students will not be admitted to the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payments for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Dept. at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1733. ***(PR)***

Live fire training on Farallon

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, warned that the U.S. military is currently conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla until May 31, 2008, from 11pm to 1am everyday.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

SSHS: No school on May 30

Saipan Southern High School will have no classes on May 30, 2008, due to preparation for the graduation. Classes will resume on June 4, 2008, this will be the last day of school. ***(PR)***

S&NISWCD meeting in June

The Saipan & Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District would like to inform the general public of their monthly meeting S&NISWCD meeting on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 1pm at the Natural Resources Conservation Service Office. For more information contact our office at 234-6180. (PR)

MHS Class on 1988 meeting on June 5

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting again on June 5, 2008, 6:30pm at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School.

It was decided on Thursday, May 15, 2008, meeting to extend the dateline for payments to June 5, 2008. Classmates are being encouraged to turn in there payments by then.You can contact our Treasurer Ms. Melissa D. Diaz at 285-2624. (PR)

Mount Carmel Theater Club presents first film

Mount Carmel Theatre club invites the public to join them in its first feature-length film Caesar, an adaptation of the classic play "Caesar" by William Shakespeare.

The event will be held at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater on Friday, May 30, and Saturday, May 31, beginning 7pm.

Due to exceptionally limited seating, advance purchase of tickets is highly recommended. The value of each ticket is worth $5.

For more information, you can call 235-1251 or email galvin@itecnmi.com, visit their website at www.mcstheatreclub.blogspot.com. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 28, 1999

AGO begins probe of consumer prices

Backing move to probe consumer prices on the island, the Attorney General's Office has assured legislators that an investigation has started into claims of excessive shipping charges by carriers serving the CNMI which may have pushed the cost of importing goods here. But the AGO said it has met difficulties in pressing the matter due to the financial crisis that has prevented them from hiring outside lawyers who could help them bring the case to federal authorities as well as to the U.S. Congress.

CNMI finds ally in Young

U.S. House Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) has defended the Northern Marianas against proposals to slap tariffs on its garment exports to the mainland, calling them "outdated and not constructive" in dealing with the problems confronting the island. He said taking away the trade privileges granted the Commonwealth would hurt the local economy and lead to more federal doleouts to the island which has managed to become self-sufficient unlike other U.S. territories.

'Delaying CIP funding is better alternative'

A recommendation to defer appropriation of U.S. construction grants to the Northern Marianas has gained support from House Speaker Diego T. Benavente who said this would be a better alternative than the initial proposal to slash the funding by half. "I would agree... that if we can't spend funding for year 2000, why should Congress appropriate it," he explained. "If we can spend it at a later time because we will still receive it anyway, then that doesn't hurt us."

MAY 28, 2000

Graduates asked to seek local employment

A fresh batch of Northern Marianas College graduates were greeted Saturday with a new challenge that poses to eliminate what is perceived to be an outdated system of employment in the local scene. Public Auditor Mike Sablan, the keynote speaker during NMC's 20th graduation rites, urged 142 successful students to wrestle with an employment system which he said is driven by wrong stereotypes of local graduates and resident workers.

'Stop charging for waterless days'

The House of Representatives asking the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to stop collecting payment from consumers for the days when water delivery services are not available. In a letter, Rep. William S. Torres asked CUC to map out a mechanism that would allow commercial and residential consumers to offset credit on monthly flat rate during the days when water supply is interrupted.

CPA expenses soar 30% in March

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reported an estimated 30 percent increase in its operating expenses as it solely shouldered expenses in a cleanup operation necessitated by a fuel leak at the Saipan international Airport. CPA has been asking Mobil Oil Marianas to be a party on the cleanup operations, which the oil giant reportedly refused.

MAY 28, 2001

Saipan streets named this year

The Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday assured residents that roads and houses on the island will be named and numbered before the year ends. This, as contractor Henry K. Pangelinan and Associates completed negotiations for the procurement of materials that will be used for street signs and names, Mayor Juan B. Tudela disclosed in an interview.

NY experts mull aiding NMI in fight against youth suicides

Psychology experts from the Columbia University in New York City are now considering providing their services to the CNMI for free in a bid to help the Commonwealth stem the rise in suicide among its youths. Commonwealth Health Center psychiatrist Anthony Andrew Bottone, MD told Gov. Juan N. Babauta in a letter that he has been in touch with some of his colleagues at the Columbia University and they are now thinking of helping out, as long as there is community support and local implementation of the project in coordination with the CHC's Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics.

Island Snapshots

MENTOR APPRECIATION

The Cooperative Education and Program of the Marianas High School, which is still going strong after 37 years, holds a Mentor Appreciation Luncheon on May 16 at the Minatchom Atdao pavilion across the school campus. Here, the students pose with their mentors during the luncheon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FIELD TRIP

Students of the Green Meadow School pose with teachers and McDonald's staff during a field trip to the fast food restaurant. The school's 20 hardworking teachers got a free meal at McDonald's during the May 20 visit.

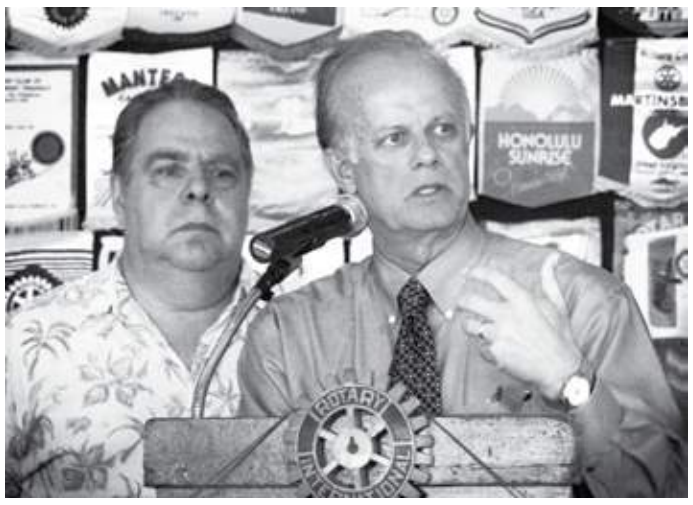
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students of the Green Meadow School pose with their teacher during a field trip to McDonald's last Tuesday, May 20. The students had just arrived at the restaurant after visiting other establishments on the island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Parents pose with their children inside McDonald's during a field trip for Green Meadow School students on May 20.



ROTARY CLUB MEETING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Immigration director Melvin Grey and Labor director Barry Hirshbein grace the Saipan Rotary Club's regular Tuesday meeting at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's restaurant.

MEMORIAL DAY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZS

A child offers a flower on the grave of his grandfather, the late WWII Marine Corps Gregorio Camacho Cabrera.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TOKYO PROMOTION

The crew and models at work at the Marianas Resort and Spa on Saipan for the Tama Plaza Tokyo promotion. The annual "Mid-Summer Campaign" will be held at Tama Plaza Tokyu Shopping Mall June 20 – July 1. The mall is located in the suburbs of Tokyo. This campaign is designed to attract shoppers for summer clothes and merchandise for the season.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A model poses at the Marianas Resort and Spa during a photo shoot for the Tama Plaza Tokyo promotion. The beautiful island of Saipan will serve as the backdrop for all the collateral produced for this campaign. There are 370,000 pamphlets and 1,364 posters being designed. This collateral will distributed via newspapers and posters in subways, train stations and in the shopping mall. The pamphlet will also be uploaded to the mall website www.tama-plaza.com. The target audience for this campaign is females in their late 30s to 40s. The total value of this exposure is US $61,400.

The shooting crew prepares to set up for another photo shoot at the Marianas Resort and Spa grounds. A total of nine crew were in the CNMI to film for this upcoming promotion. They spent four days shooting various locations around the island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tama Plaza Tokyo promotion crew pose for a souvenir picture while on the island.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Endangered species

Wildearth Guardians filed suit in March against the interior secretary to get the Bush administration to make a determination on whether 681 species of animals should be protected under the Endangered Species Act. The environmental group has every right to sue. These species are either threatened, endangered or bordering on extinction. But the problem can't be traced to willful resistance by the Bush administration. The original cause of the problem is a barrage of lawsuits dating to the Clinton administration that has slowed the process of protecting species to a near halt.

That's not to say that the Fish and Wildlife Service under President Bush hasn't given environmental groups reason to doubt his intentions. Last year, an Interior Department inspector general's report criticized Julie MacDonald, deputy assistant secretary of the interior for fish, wildlife and parks from 2004 to 2007, for routinely ignoring the advice of staff scientists and changing their recommendations on critical habitats for species under review. Seven of the eight Endangered Species Act decisions made by MacDonald were reversed by the Fish and Wildlife Service after her resignation a year ago. But the problems facing the agency predate Bush.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has been caught in a legal vice that has forced it to spend most of its time responding to lawsuits and following judges' orders on designating critical habitats rather than actively protecting species. The trouble began in 1997 when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the Fish and Wildlife Service should have designated critical habitat for the California gnatcatcher at the time the songbird was listed as endangered, in 1993.

Before the 1997 case came along, the priority had been to get animals and plants on the protected list. According to the agency, because the Endangered Species Act required the designation of critical habitat at the time of listing "to the maximum extent prudent," it was a "luxury" to be done only if it had the money and staff. The gnatcatcher decision, the agency told us, opened the floodgates to litigation because the court ruled that the agency had to designate habitat at the same time that it listed species. Hundreds of species were affected. Staff and budget had to be diverted from new listings of endangered species.

A decade later, the agency says that it still has 62 active cases and has received 21 notices of intent to sue. Yet things have gotten better. In 2002, Congress and the Bush administration created a separate budget for listing species. This has allowed the Fish and Wildlife Service to work through its backlog. The agency expects to propose listing determinations for 71 species in this fiscal year and another 21 in fiscal 2009. Imagine how much more could be accomplished if the Fish and Wildlife Service were guided by the expertise of its career scientists instead of the whims of political appointees or the priorities of lawyers and judges.

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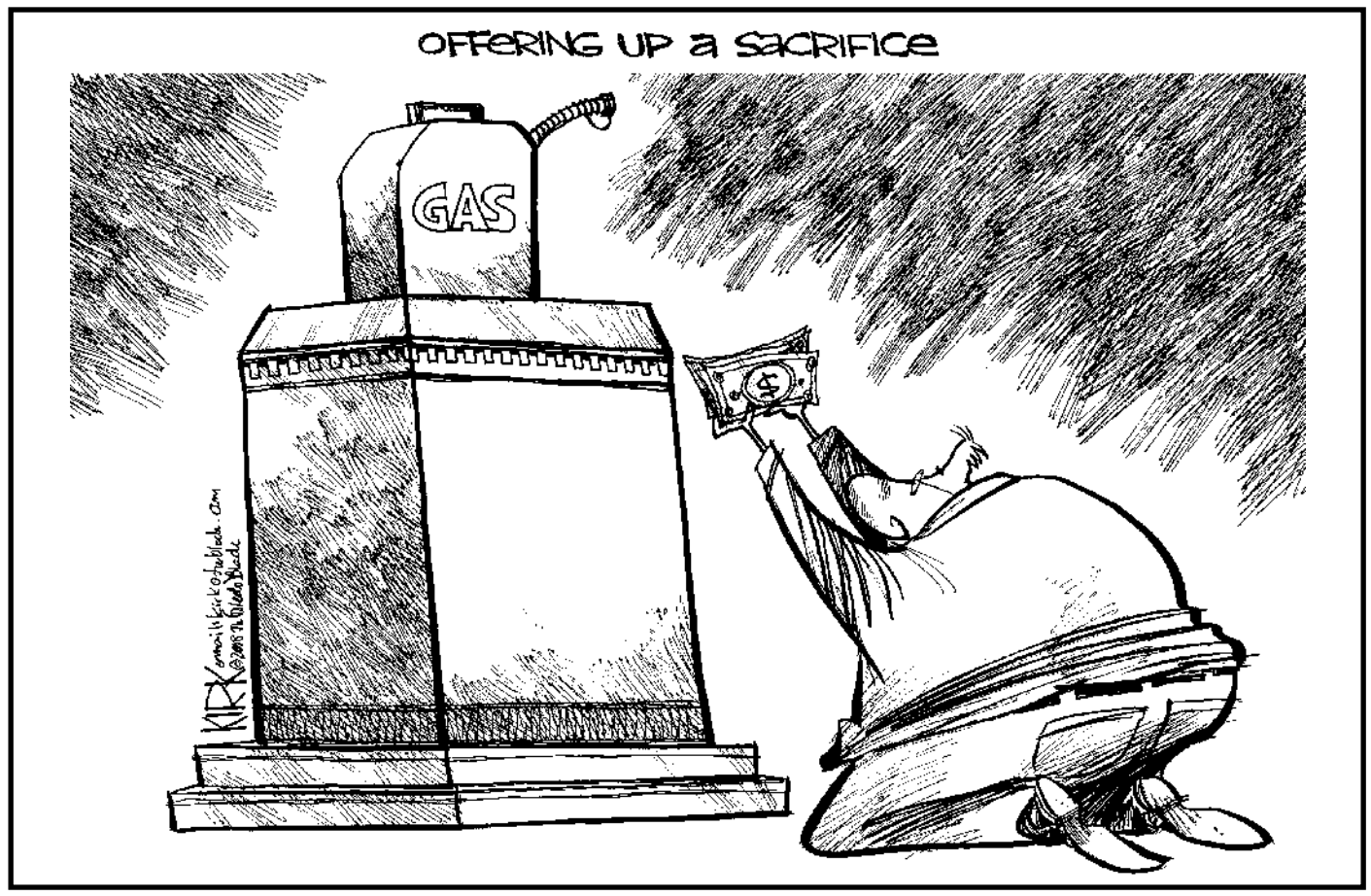


Driving toward disaster

By JAMES HOWARD KUNSTLER
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Everywhere I go these days, talking about the global energy predicament on the college lecture circuit or at environmental conferences, I hear an increasingly shrill cry for "solutions." This is just another symptom of the delusional thinking that now grips the nation, especially among the educated and well-intentioned.

I say this because I detect in this strident plea the desperate wish to keep our "Happy Motoring" utopia running by means other than oil and its byproducts. But the truth is that no combination of solar, wind and nuclear power, ethanol, biodiesel, tar sands and used French-fry oil will allow us to power Wal-Mart, Disney World and the interstate highway system—or even a fraction of these things—in the future. We have to make other arrangements.

The public, and especially the mainstream media, misunderstands the "peak oil" story. It's not about running out of oil. It's about the instabilities that will shake the complex systems of daily life as soon as the global demand for oil exceeds the global supply. These systems can be listed concisely:

- The way we produce food
- The way we conduct commerce and trade
- The way we travel
- The way we occupy the land
- The way we acquire and spend capital

And there are others: governance, health care, education and more.

As the world passes the all-time oil production high and watches as the price of a barrel of oil busts another record, as it did last week, these systems will run into trouble. Instability in one sector will bleed into another. Shocks to the oil markets will hurt trucking, which will slow commerce and food distribution, manufacturing and the tourist industry in a chain of cascading effects. Problems in finance will squeeze any enterprise that requires capital, including oil exploration and production, as well as government spending. These systems are all interrelated. They all face a crisis. What's more, the stress induced by the failure of these systems will only increase the wishful thinking across our nation.

And that's the worst part of our quandary: the American public's narrow focus on keeping all our cars running at any cost. Even the environmental community is hung up on this. The Rocky Mountain Institute has been pushing for the development of a "Hypercar" for years—inadvertently promoting the idea that we really don't need to change.

Years ago, U.S. negotiators at a U.N. environmental conference told their interlocutors that the American lifestyle is "not up for negotiation." This stance is, unfortunately, related to two pernicious beliefs that have become common in the United States in recent decades. The first is the idea that when you wish upon a star, your dreams come true. (Oprah Winfrey advanced this notion last year with her promotion of a pop book called "The Secret," which said, in effect, that if you wish hard enough for something, it will come to you.) One of the basic differences between a child and an adult is the ability to know the difference between wishing for things and actually making them happen through earnest effort.

The companion belief to "wishing upon a star" is the idea that one can get something for nothing. This derives from America's new favorite religion: not evangelical Christianity but the worship of unearned riches. (The holy shrine to this tragic belief is Las Vegas.) When you combine these two beliefs, the result is the notion that when you wish upon a star, you'll get something for nothing. This is what underlies our current fantasy, as well as our inability to respond intelligently to the energy crisis.

These beliefs also explain why the presidential campaign is devoid of meaningful discussion about our energy predicament and its implications. The idea that we can become "energy independent" (begin ital) and (end ital) maintain our current lifestyle is absurd. So is the gas-tax holiday. (Which politician wants to tell voters on Labor Day that the holiday is over?) The pie-in-the-sky plan to turn grain into fuel came to grief, too, when we saw its disruptive effect on global grain prices and the food shortages around the world, even in the United States. In recent weeks, the rice and cooking-oil shelves in my upstate New York supermarket have been stripped clean.

So what are intelligent responses to our predicament? First, we'll have to dramatically reorganize the everyday activities of American life. We'll have to grow our food closer to home, in a manner that will require more human attention. In fact, agriculture needs to return to the center of economic life. We'll have to restore local economic networks—the very networks that the big-box stores systematically destroyed—made of fine-grained layers of wholesalers, middlemen and retailers.

We'll also have to occupy the landscape differently, in traditional towns, villages and small cities. Our giant metroplexes are not going to make it, and the successful places will be ones that encourage local farming.

Fixing the U.S. passenger railroad system is probably the one project we could undertake right away that would have the greatest impact on the country's oil consumption. The fact that we're not talking about it—especially in the presidential campaign—shows how confused we are. The airline industry is disintegrating under the enormous pressure of fuel costs. Airlines cannot fire any more employees and have already offloaded their pension obligations and outsourced their repairs. At least five small airlines have filed for bankruptcy protection in the past two months. If we don't get the passenger trains running again, Americans will be going nowhere five years from now.

We don't have time to be crybabies about this. The talk on the presidential campaign trail about "hope" has its purpose. We cannot afford to remain befuddled and demoralized. But we must understand that hope is not something applied externally. Real hope resides within us. We generate it—by proving that we are competent, earnest individuals who can discern between wishing and doing, who don't figure on getting something for nothing and who can be honest about the way the universe really works.

James Howard Kunstler is the author, most recently, of World Made by Hand*, a novel about America's post-oil future.*

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Saipanpreneur Profile: The Inkbox™

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT *Creating economic success for the CNMI*

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

At the south end of Middle Road, across from the Big Garden Restaurant, is one of Saipan's newest business ventures. You might have seen its bright gold and black sign spring up a few weeks ago. It's called the Inkbox™.

I spoke recently with Bernie Mabalot, Inkbox's main sales agent and technical guru. Bernie, originally from Manila, has a wife and two children in the Philippines. He's been on Saipan for the past three years. Bernie and I had a long hour-and-a-half discussion of he and his partner's business and the printer industry, and I learned much more about printers, toners, cartridges, refilling and recycling than I thought there was to learn.

So, Bernie, what does the Inkbox™ do?

Inkbox*:* "The Inkbox recycles and remanufactures ink-jet printer cartridges and laser printer toner cartridges Instead of buying a new cartridge once your ink or toner is finished, you can bring it to us, we'll refill it with the right toner or ink, and save you anywhere from 40 percent to 60 percent off the price of buying a new one."

That's a cool idea. What gave you the idea to start it here on Saipan?

Inkbox: "Actually, I had the idea from back in the Philippines, but it was actually your workshop, Walt, the one you did at the Multi-Purpose Center for Filipino contract workers that got me inspired to take the leap. We were still considering it at the time, and when I attended your workshop, you spoke about starting your own business, so I decided why not? I took the idea to my business partner, who I met through our church, and he got us started."

You said you had the idea back in the Philippines? Tell us about that.

Inkbox: "About 5 years ago, I owned an *InkTycoon* franchise in the Philippines. After about one and a half years, another competitor entered the market, and things got saturated there. So we decided to do it here on Saipan."

Aren't you wary of economic conditions right now?

Inkbox: "You said in your workshop, Walt, that there are only two ways to make a profit: charge more money or spend less money. Inkbox was conceived at the time in Saipan's economy where people, especially businesses, are looking to save money. We have a great opportunity for people to save money, so this is just the right time to start this type of business, and we can grow along with Saipan."

Who were your customers then, and who are your customers now?

InkBox: "We had government contracts, private corporations, and just regular people. Anyone with a printer can save money recycling."

And what brands do you support?

InkBox: "HP, Samsung, Sharp, Dell, Lexmark, Panasonic, and many more. HP is more popular, and we support HP because, unlike other companies, they have a supportive and liberal policy regarding third-party ink resellers like us. But, just about any brand that's out there, we can refill it."

What does refilling a cartridge entail?

Bernie proceeds to give me a quick lesson in the reconstruction of a TN-530 Brother® toner cartridge. He disassembles it, and shows me the wiper blade, doctor blade, OPD (Organic Photo-sensitive Drum), PCR (Photo conductor roller), magnetic roller sleeve, chips, toner sensor bar, corona wire, recovery blade, seal strip, and the casing.

Inkbox: "When someone brings us an inkjet cartridge, or laser toner cartridge, we open it, clean or replace the foam, replace the filters, refill the ink, and test the circuitry to make sure it's working correctly.

"We check everything, replace any worn parts, and check to make sure the optical density is almost the same as the original, and we guarantee our work 100 percent."

Here's a question I ask anyone who's considering starting a business: What makes your business special, Bernie? Why should I have my cartridge re-filled, remanufactured, or recycled by you rather than the other guy?

Inkbox: "Well, our training and support comes from the mainland U.S. Our materials and parts come from Germany. We guarantee that we have the highest technology in remanufacturing available on Saipan.

"We have the newest type of ink from Hewlett Packard. It's called Vivera Ink, and we have the exact formulation from Germany.

"There are 70-80 types of toners in the market. Each has a different melting point and tribocharge *(Tribocharge is the generating of a static charge on two surfaces that come in contact and then separate with each other*—laser printers use static electricity to attract the toner material in the pattern or image of the work onto the drum to transfer onto the paper—a *bit more than we needed to know, Bernie!)*, so we use the specific toner for every specific printer cartridge. We don't use universal toner in our cartridge. No generic toner or ink, only the exact ink for the exact printer based on the manufacturer's specifications.

Bernie Mabalot poses in front of Inkbox.
WALT GOODRIDGE

"We are an environmentally friendly company. We use biodegradable packaging and reusable bags. We recycle your cartridge a maximum of 7-8 times, then we dispose of it for you.

What are some of the advantages of remanufacturing and refilling over buying new?

Inkbox: "Well, the first benefit is the financial savings. If you were to buy a new toner cartridge like this one, for example, you might spend $120. A reconditioned one might cost you $79.

"Second, you're doing something significant to save the environment. [Bernie shows me the thumb-sized cartridge for my own Epson printer) It takes 5 liters of oil to produce this one little cartridge. And when you throw it away, because it's an industrial weight plastic, it takes 500 years to decompose.

"Third, as you know, sometimes replacements of many items—not just cartridges—aren't always available here on Saipan. So, you can always get a toner re-conditioned or an ink cartridge for any kind of printer refilled when a replacement isn't available on island.

"Finally, when you refill, you'll actually get more yield (pages printed) than if you buy it new."

How's that possible?

Inkbox: "We actually put *more* ink in a refilled cartridge than what you got when you bought it new!"

What's the turnaround time?

Inkbox: "Since we usually carry an inventory of pre-filled, tested cartridges, we can simply swap one of ours for yours while you wait. If we don't have one in stock, it may take half a day."

I would imagine that just about every business would have a need for your services, especially if their work is paper-intensive—lawyers, hotels, government agencies, just about everyone.

InkBox: "There's a lot of awareness here on Saipan for the need to recycle and to cut costs. Right now we are working with organizations including DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) here on Saipan. It makes sense that they would be one of the first to do what makes sense environmentally. We were approached by Chris Wallace of DEQ, and we are currently negotiating with them.

"Any business that wants to save money can give us a call. We'll send our technician out to your site to determine your needs.

"We will invest in the technology to give you the best service. There are special machines needed for the refilling process. We invest in the technology to have those on hand just for them. We support the cost of having printers to test your cartridge, and also stock up on inventory for you for 2-3 cycles."

What are some of your plans for the future?

Inkbox: "Environmental awareness is part of our business. We want to educate the public and students at schools about the advantage of recycling and caring for the environment. We'll be working with divers on Saipan to keep the beaches and dive sites clean. We will be supporting the Beautify CNMI campaign. We'll keep educating the public about the beauty we have here and why it's important to take action like recycling to preserve it."

Any advice for other potential Saipanpreneurs?

Inkbox: "Try to focus on your passion. I'm not trying to take over your business concept, Walt, but it really works! I have a few passions. I'm a geek. So dealing with the technology, tinkering with a new product that could benefit the consumer, discovering innovation, that's what I enjoy doing! There's an old question that asks: How can you eat an elephant? The answer is you take one bite at a time! Whether you are fulfilling your dreams, starting a business, dealing with competitors, you can achieve anything you want if you take one bite at a time!"

InkBox is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm, the Inkbox™ official grand opening date is Saturday, June 14, 2008. They can be reached at 234-2465 or 888-5252.

Note: For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

Letters to the Editor

Apology

I am writing this letter to formally apologize to the public for my unprofessional behavior and actions. We tend to make choices in life and sometimes do not realize if we've made the right or wrong ones. I am remorseful and vow never to repeat those actions again.

Francisco C. Calvo
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°

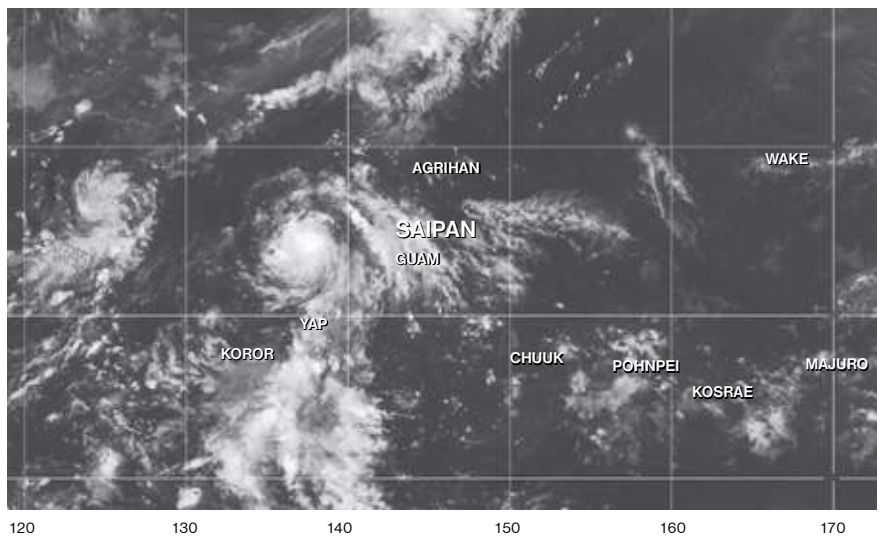
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼71
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲60	▼50
Beijing	Sunny	▲78	▼63
Hong Kong	Showers	▲88	▼80
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼73
London	Cloudy	▲68	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲74	▼56
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲66	▼55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼58
Osaka	Rain	▲73	▼66
Paris	Thunderstorms	▲72	▼59
Pusan	Cloudy	▲75	▼61
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼63
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼48
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲81	▼53
Tokyo	Rain	▲71	▼63
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲73	▼58

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical depression 06W (TD06W) is located about 440 miles west of Guam and is centered near 14N138E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found within 70 miles of the center and scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend outside this area to 150 miles of the center. A large peripheral band is located northeast of the depression with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms found in an area bounded by a line from 17N141E to 13N144E to 14N141E and back to 17N141E. Refer to JTWC bulletin WPTN31 PGTW and to the WFO Guam public advisory WTPQ31 PGUM for additional details. A weak stationary front is producing scattered showers within 100 miles of a line from 19N130E northeastward past 25N140E. A surface trough runs northeast from EQ132E across Yap and merges with TD06W. Converging low level winds associated with this trough are producing scattered showers between the equator and 12N from 142E westward to beyond 130E. This area includes Yap state and the Republic of Palau. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 5N152 to 4N180. These showers are mainly affecting areas from southeast of Chuuk to just south of Pohnpei and from Kosrae to the southern Marshall Islands.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:02AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:15AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
12:38AM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:33PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:43PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:43PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:43PM
Saturday	5:46AM	6:44PM
Sunday	5:46AM	6:44PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:16AM	12:16PM
Thursday	12:54AM	1:08PM
Friday	1:32AM	2:02PM
Saturday	2:12AM	2:58PM
Sunday	2:12AM	2:58PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:40am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:40am	11:25am	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Business

AP

G-8 Environment Ministers from left Semen levi, deputy minister of ministry of Natural Resources and Ecology of Russia, Ichiro Kamoshita of Japan, John Baird of Canada, Hilary Benn of Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of Britain, and Matthias Machnig, of Secretary State for the Environment of Germany, stand in front of Maps of "Japanese environment technologies expanding to the world" as they visit the Environment Fair in Kobe western Japan Sunday, May 25, 2008.

Accord on 2020 emissions target eludes G8 ministers

KOBE, Japan (AP)—Under pressure to boost talks on a new global warming pact, Group of Eight environment ministers on Monday endorsed slashing greenhouse gas emissions in half by mid-century, but failed to agree on much more contentious near-term targets.

The three-day meeting in Kobe was dominated by calls from the U.N., European countries and developing nations to move forward on setting targets for cutting emissions by 2020. Scientists say those targets are needed to avoid the worst effects of global warming.

But the ministers from the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Canada, Italy and Russia, in a carefully worded statement, mentioned only the need to set such targets eventually. That frustrated environmentalists and some European ministers.

"From a scientific point of view, we need a clear reduction target, because the next 20 years are very vital, very important for climate change and the decisions we make in this process," said Matthias Machnig, Germany's state minister for environment.

Oil prices rise above $133 a barrel

By PABLO GORONDI
AP WRITER

Oil rose above $133 a barrel Monday on persistent worries about global petroleum supplies and the outlook for the U.S. economy and the dollar.

Reports of an attack by militants on an oil pipeline in Nigeria, one of Africa's largest oil exporters, also helped boost prices.

Light, sweet crude for July delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange was up 88 cents at $133.07 a barrel in electronic trading by late afternoon in Europe. The contract rose $1.38 to settle at $132.19 a barrel on Friday.

Nymex floor trading was closed Monday for Memorial Day and it also was a holiday in Britain, resulting in lower trading volume than usual.

The dollar has weakened over the last week after a modest recovery, and investors will be watching economic data out of the United States to be released over the next few days for further clues about the health of the world's biggest economy.

"The dollar's been swinging down again," said Mark Pervan, senior commodity strategist at Australia & New Zealand Bank in Melbourne, and that's "going to sway sentiment."

Oil and other hard commodities are seen as hedges against a weakening dollar and inflation. Also, a weak dollar, the currency of international oil trade, makes petroleum products less expensive to Asian and European buyers.

This week, investors will be watching for what implications U.S. consumer confidence, new home sales, gross domestic product and other economic data might have for the dollar and oil prices, he said.

"It's a pretty price sensitive week for economic data," Pervan said. "The data we're seeing out of the U.S. at the moment looks pretty weak. You'd expect that trend to continue, pushing further down on the dollar."

The dollar, one of the factors that has fed oil's rally from about $65 a year ago, was lower against the yen, but up a bit against the euro in currency trading during the afternoon in Europe after losing ground Friday in New York.

The euro slipped to $1.5764 compared with $1.5775 on Friday, while the dollar fell to 103.41 Japanese yen from 104.17 yen Friday.

Prices also were supported when militants in Nigeria, a major supplier to the U.S. market, claimed they destroyed an oil pipeline and killed 11 soldiers in a gunbattle.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta says it attacked the pipeline operated by a Royal Dutch Shell PLC joint venture early Monday. Shell officials were not immediately available for comment, and a military spokesman had no immediate confirmation of any overnight incidents.

China unveils massive telecom restructuring

BEIJING (AP)—China's phone companies will merge into three large groups in a long-awaited government restructuring of its giant telecoms market that could lead to billions of dollars in new orders for foreign equipment suppliers.

A plan announced over the weekend calls for energizing competition by bringing together mobile and fixed-line operators. It says once mergers are complete, licenses for next-generation services will be issued—a step that would require heavy spending on new equipment.

The announcement said mergers were expected to take place as quickly as possible but gave no time frame.

The plan is aimed at creating more robust competitors to China Mobile Ltd., which dominates China's market and is the world's biggest carrier by number of subscribers, with more than 400 million accounts.

It would result in three groups based around the parent companies of China Mobile and fixed-line carriers China Telecom and China Netcom.

AP

A villager walks past a billboard for China Mobile, at Xiushui, in China's southwest Sichuan province Monday May 19, 2008.

The competitive environment will "dramatically change" over time, but China Mobile is unlikely to lose its dominance for at least one to two years, said Fitch analyst Jinqing Li.

Even after that time, "China Mobile's strong financial profile also provides further support in the face of evolving industry developments and uncertainties," Li said in a report.

Fixed-line carriers are struggling to attract new business at a time when first-time customers are passing up traditional service in favor of mobile phones. China Mobile's smaller rival, China Unicom, also is having trouble attracting users.

YouTube suit called threat to online communication

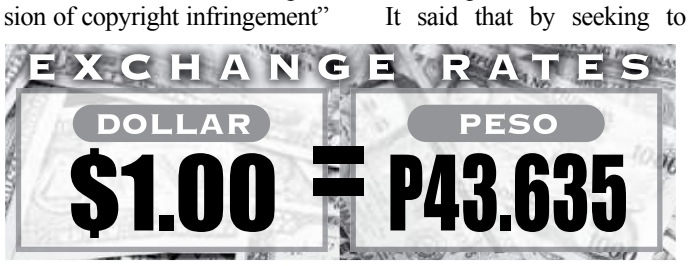
NEW YORK (AP)—A $1 billion copyright infringement lawsuit challenging YouTube's ability to keep copyrighted material off its popular video-sharing site threatens how hundreds of millions of people exchange all kinds of information on the Internet, YouTube owner Google Inc. said.

Google's lawyers made the claim in papers filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan as the company responded to Viacom Inc.'s latest lawsuit alleging that the Internet has led to "an explosion of copyright infringement" by YouTube and others.

The back-and-forth between the companies has intensified since Viacom brought its lawsuit last year, saying it was owed damages for the unauthorized viewing of its programming from MTV, Comedy Central and other networks, including such hits as "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart."

In papers submitted to a judge late Friday, Google said YouTube "goes far beyond its legal obligations in assisting content owners to protect their works."

It said that by seeking to



BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ex-manager on trial in Siemens scandal

MUNICH, Germany (AP)—A former Siemens AG manager on trial over alleged corruption and bribery testified Monday that "commissions" were paid to secure orders. Reinhard Siekaczek, a former manager at the ICN fixed-line telephone network division, is the first to go on trial over the company's corruption scandal that came to light last year. Siekaczek, 57, is charged with 58 counts of breach of trust. Prosecutors allege that he set up a complex network of shell corporations that he used to siphon off company money over several years. The money allegedly was used as bribes to help secure contracts abroad by paying off would-be suppliers, government officials, potential customers.

CEO of Infineon Technologies resigns

BERLIN (AP)—Infineon Technologies AG said Monday that its chief executive, Wolfgang Ziebart, will resign at the end of the month over what it said was a difference in strategy for the money-losing semiconductor maker. In a brief statement issued after the German stock exchange closed for the day, the company said that Ziebart's resignation would be effective June 1. The company named Peter Bauer, a member of the company's executive board who has been running its automotive chip business, to succeed Ziebart. Infineon also said that its supervisory board, the U.S. equivalent to a board of directors, had declared "its vote of confidence for the chairman Max Dietrich Kley."

European, Asian markets mixed amid inflation concerns

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—European stock markets edged higher Monday and key Asian markets fell amid worries about high oil prices and the U.S. economy on a day when the U.S. and British markets were closed for a holiday. Key stock market indicators edged up in Germany and France but the main market gauges fell more than 2 percent in Japan and Hong Kong after the Chinese government announced an overhaul of its telecommunications sector. In Germany, the DAX rose 0.14 percent to close at 6,953.84. In France, the CAC-40 rose 0.08 percent to close at 4,937.84, while in Tokyo the benchmark Nikkei 225 index dropped 2.3 percent to 13,690.19.

Nation

Bush pays tribute to troops at Arlington

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—President Bush paid tribute Monday to America's fighting men and women who died in battle, saying national leaders must have "the courage and character to follow their lead" in preserving peace and freedom.

"On this Memorial Day, I stand before you as the commander in chief and try to tell you how proud I am," Bush told an audience of military figures, veterans and their families at Arlington National Cemetery. Of the men and women buried in the hallowed cemetery, he said, "They're an awesome bunch of people and the United States is blessed to have such citizens."

That provoked a standing ovation from the crowd in a marble amphitheater where Bush spoke. "Whoo-hoo!" shouted one woman, who couldn't contain her enthusiasm.

Bush and his wife, Laura, traveled from the White House across the Potomac River to the rolling hillsides of Arlington. Along the way, one man stood with a sign that said: "Bring Our Troops Home." But, otherwise, the presidential motorcade on a sparkling clear spring day was warmly greeted at the cemetery entrance by scores of people, including two men in hats, shirts and shorts made out of American flag material. Others visited gravesites where each white tombstone was marked with a tiny American flag.

"From faraway lands, they were returned to cemeteries like this one where broken hearts received their broken bodies," Bush said. "They found peace beneath the white headstones in the land they fought to defend. It is a solemn reminder of the cost of freedom that the number of headstones in a place such as this grows with every new Memorial Day."

He eulogized all U.S. troops who have died in service to the nation, but particularly those who lost their lives this past year.

Army Spc. Kevin Cridge, of Sacramento, Calif., sits at a grave at Section 60 of Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2008, in Arlington, Va. Cridge is with the 177th Armored Brigade 1st Infantry Division, and has done two tours in Iraq. AP

Food banks face high costs but feeding more people

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP)—Jackie Hoffman sifted through a laundry bin filled with aging bread, choosing a loaf of white.

Like nearly a third of the first 50 customers to arrive at the Emergency Food Bank of Stockton that morning, Hoffman was new to the pantry. But since she lost her sales job at a local newspaper in December, she has not found work in Stockton, which has the highest foreclosure rate in the country and a hurting job market.

"I'm down on my luck," Hoffman said, squeezing and sniffing the bread. "And food is going through the roof. I need help."

Hoffman, 55, is one of the growing number of "nontraditional" food pantry clients across the country. They include more formerly independent senior citizens, more people who own houses and more people who used to call themselves "middle-class"—those who are not used to fretting over the price of milk.

"We're getting calls all the time from people who want to know how to get here," said Kristine Gibson, community outreach manager at the Stockton food pantry. "And when I ask where they live, they give an address of a nice neighborhood, one where you or I would want to live."

April saw the biggest jump in food prices in 18 years, according to the Labor Department. At the same time, workers' average weekly earnings, adjusted for inflation, dropped for the seventh straight month.

NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander prepares for digging mission

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—NASA's Phoenix Mars Lander spent its first full day in the Martian arctic plains checking its instruments in preparation for an ambitious digging mission to study whether the site could have once been habitable.

Sol 1, as the days are known on Mars, was a busy time for the three-legged lander, which set down Sunday in relatively flat terrain cut by polygon-shaped fissures. The geometric cracks are likely caused by the repeated freezing and thawing of buried ice.

"We've only looked at one tiny little slit" of the landing site, principal investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, Tucson said Monday.

Phoenix planned to take more views of its surroundings to help scientists zero in on a digging site and also take images of its onboard instruments, including its trench-digging robotic arm.

Early indications show the protective cover around the arm did not unwrap all the way after landing, but it should not affect the ability to unstow the arm, said Barry Goldstein, project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

With pricey gas, police pump up bike patrols

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Since even the long arm of the law can't rein in fuel prices, the long legs of the law are getting more exercise these days.

Bicycle patrols—a community policing tactic that some law enforcement agencies de-emphasized in recent years—are seeing a resurgence as the price of gasoline approaches or surpasses $4 a gallon across the country.

"You think the car's the great savior of us all, but in urban areas and dense areas, you're probably better off on a bike," said Chris Menton, an associate professor in the School of Justice Studies at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island who has studied police bike patrols.

In the tiny western Pennsylvania borough of Hollidaysburg, police Chief Jeff Ketner said high gas prices prompted him to resume daily bike patrols several weeks ago.

The department's regular bike patrol had fallen by the wayside and was mainly being used for special events. Ketner resurrected the program after realizing he was on pace to go $6,000 over budget on the department's four vehicles by the end of the year.

Hollidaysburg Police Sgt. David Gehret, left, and officer Mark Lingafeltin pedal up Union Street in Hollidaysburg, Pa., on Friday, May 23, 2008.

ACROSS THE NATION

Clintons in Puerto Rico; Obama in New Mexico

PONCE, Puerto Rico (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton ended a three-day campaign swing across Puerto Rico the same way many Americans mark Memorial Day—with family, friends and a salute to the sacrifices of military men and women. Hillary Clinton and her husband, former President Clinton, also met with a family that received federal aid after Hurricane Georges in 1998. As first lady, Hillary Clinton had visited them to see how the storm affected Puerto Ricans. As Clinton wrapped up her Puerto Rican swing, Obama marked Memorial Day in New Mexico, a battleground state in the general election.

Lexus of space station labs poised for launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Japan is about to roll out the Lexus of space station labs, a whopper in size and sophistication. The $1 billion Kibo lab—which means "hope" in Japanese—is poised for a Saturday launch aboard space shuttle Discovery. It will be the biggest and, by far, the most elaborate room at the international space station—a 37-foot-long scientific workshop as large as a school bus, with its own hatch to the outside for experiments and a pair of robot arms. Making it even bigger will be a closet and porch. Kibo is so enormous that three shuttle flights were needed to get it all up. Seven astronauts, one of them Japanese, will deliver the actual lab on the upcoming mission, along with the larger of the two robot arms. A separate storage room loaded with Kibo equipment went up in March. The porch for outdoor science experiments and the smaller robot arm will fly next year.

Iowa town measures the loss after deadly tornado

PARKERSBURG, Iowa (AP)—Half of this small town lay in ruins or heavily damaged Monday following a deadly tornado that ripped apart a stretch of northern Iowa. The Sunday afternoon twister killed six people in Iowa, four of them in Parkersburg and two others in nearby New Hartford. In neighboring Minnesota, a child was killed by violent weather in a suburb of St. Paul. "You really are overwhelmed when you see it," Iowa Gov. Chet Culver said at a news conference Monday after touring the Parkersburg area. "You can't imagine this kind of devastation, homes completely gone. And to see people trying to sort through their belongings is very difficult." In addition to those killed, about 70 people were injured, two of them in critical condition.

Asia

Bomb on train in Sri Lanka kills 8, hurts 70

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A bomb ripped through part of a packed passenger train during evening rush hour Monday, killing eight people and wounding 70 others near the Sri Lankan capital.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara blamed Tamil Tiger rebels for the bombing near the railroad station in Dehiwala, about six miles south of Colombo.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan did not respond to calls seeking comment but the rebels routinely deny such attacks.

Television footage showed the blast ripped off part of the train compartment's roof and windows were shattered. Blood-stained bags, umbrellas, glasses and other debris were strewn throughout the compartment.

Dr. Wifred Kumarasiri said six bodies were brought to Kalubowila Teaching Hospital and two people later died there. Another 70 were being treated, he said.

The rebels, blamed for scores of suicide bombings and other attacks on civilians, are listed as a terrorist group by the United States, the European Union and India.

AP

A Sri Lankan soldier checks for explosive devices inside the wreckage of an exploded train compartment in Dehiwala, a suburb of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Monday, May 26, 2008.

UN hopeful on getting aid to Myanmar survivors

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—U.N. officials expressed hope Monday they will soon be able to get help to more than 1 million cyclone survivors still waiting for food and shelter, if Myanmar's ruling junta keeps its promise to let foreign aid workers into the country.

More than three weeks after the storm, people huddled along roadsides, desperate for any sort of handout. The U.N. estimated less than half the 2.4 million people victimized by the May 2-3 storm had received emergency assistance.

In Pyapon, a coastal township southwest of Yangon, hundreds of makeshift huts had been thrown up along a road. Women and children squatted outside, the children begging for food, their arms outstretched as vehicles pass.

The area can be reached fairly easily, but the survivors said they had not received any aid from Myanmar's military government and were surviving on donations from private citizens and Buddhist monks.

"I have no hope that the help will come," said Aye Shwe, a 52-year-old farmer who has been living with his family of eight in a hut that he built with scrounged bamboo and thatch.

For sustenance the family has had to rely on private donors who deliver rice and potatoes with trucks.

China worries about flood threat

ANXIAN, China (AP)—Soldiers hauled explosives deep into China's disaster zone Monday to blow up earthquake debris blocking a river whose rising waters threatened to flood already-devastated towns and villages.

Storms forecast for the region, meanwhile, added to concerns that rain would put more pressure on weakened dams and reservoirs and cause spillovers from new lakes that have built up behind debris from the earthquake.

The number of deaths from the quake climbed toward an expected final toll of 80,000 or more. The Cabinet said 65,080 people were confirmed killed, and 23,150 people remained missing.

■ ■ ■

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese officials said Monday that the country's one-child policy exempts families with a child killed, severely injured or disabled in the country's devastating earthquake.

Those families can obtain a certificate to have another child, the Chengdu Population and Family Planning Committee in the capital of hard-hit Sichuan province said.

With so many shattered families asking questions, the Chengdu committee is clarifying existing one-child policy guidelines, said a committee official surnamed Wang.

"There are just a lot of cases now, so we need to clarify our policies," said Wang, who declined to elaborate.

The May 12 quake was particularly painful to many Chinese because it killed so many only children.

■ ■ ■

Thousands of people had been evacuated from an area downstream from one of the new lakes that was created by a landslide near Beichuan, a town hit hard by the May 12 tremor that devastated Sichuan province.

Some 1,800 soldiers, each carrying 22 pounds of explosives, clambered up mountain paths to reach the new lake—already named Tangjiashan—with plans to blast through the debris and drain the water, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The troops didn't arrive until late Monday, and the blasting was not expected until Tuesday at the earliest.

The lake, fed by the Qingzhu River, lay two miles upstream from the center of Beichuan county.

With better weather allowing helicopter flights, heavy equipment was also delivered to the area to help remove debris, state media reported.

Tangjiashan lake is one of dozens caused when the magnitude-7.9 quake sent millions of tons of earth and rock tumbling into some of the region's narrow valleys. Rising waters have already swallowed some villages.

AP

Relatives of a student who died in a collapsed school in May 12 earthquake, offer a prayer at the site in Juyuan, southwestern China's Sichuan province, Monday, May 26, 2008.

Quake brings rare media freedom

BEICHUAN, China (AP)—Rows of body bags were laid out along streets for all to see. Sobbing parents furious about shoddily built schools that collapsed and killed thousands of children were able to speak freely. Military helicopters carried reporters to tour the disaster zone.

The earthquake that flattened a wide swath of central Sichuan province May 12 has been a historic event for journalism in China. Never before have the nation's leaders allowed foreign reporters so much freedom to cover a major disaster.

Chinese leaders haven't fully explained the new openness, and periods of thaw can be brief here. Only time will tell if it is a real policy shift—a bold break from the Communist Party's traditional tight control on the release of news, particularly bad news.

It might just be a response to the disaster's exceptional magnitude—the death toll may exceed 80,000 and 5 million people are homeless—and the government's pledge to be more open before the Beijing Olympics.

"We have adopted an open policy because we think it was not only the disaster for Chinese people, but the people of the world," Premier Wen Jiabao said during a weekend tour of the quake zone. "Our spirit of putting people above all and our open policy will not change."

The contrast to previous disasters is stark.

In the past, regions ravaged by floods, earthquakes, typhoons and other catastrophes were mostly sealed off to foreign media. Information from the no-go zones was treated like state secrets. Reporters trying to cover disasters without official permission—almost never granted—were stopped by police. Notebooks were seized, and photo files deleted.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bomb blast in Katmandu ahead of assembly

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A bomb exploded outside a convention center in the Nepalese capital Monday, days ahead of the country's formal abolition of the centuries-old monarchy, police said. No one was hurt. The blast took place at the Birendra International Convention Center, where an assembly that is to remove the king and declare Nepal a republic is to meet on Wednesday. "There was no damage but police have stepped up security. We suspect it was targeted towards the assembly meeting," said police official Sarbendra Khanal of the explosion.

SKoreans protest against US beef deal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Thousands of South Koreans marched through the capital Monday night to protest a U.S. beef import agreement, despite claims by critics that it doesn't protect against the threat of mad cow disease. A crowd estimated by police at 3,000 held a candlelight vigil before embarking on the demonstration, demanding that the government renegotiate the pact. "Nullify the agreement," the protesters chanted as they were stopped by some of the 7,000 riot police blocking off streets downtown. No serious clashes were reported. Thousands of South Koreans, mostly students and other young people, have held similar vigils and street rallies on a near daily basis against the April 18 deal to resume U.S. beef imports.

Philippine military says rebels violated cease-fire

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine military accused the country's largest Muslim rebel group Monday of violating a 2003 cease-fire by attacking troops with the help of al-Qaida-linked extremists. The military lodged a protest against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front before a joint government-rebel committee, demanding that the group oust two rebel commanders who allegedly led Sunday's attacks on southern Basilan island, military spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said. The attacks triggered clashes that killed two rebels and wounded 17 marines.

No breakfast for children because of aid cuts

KAMPONG SPEU, Cambodia (AP)—At dawn in a ramshackle elementary school in rural Cambodia, the children think of only one thing: their stomachs. They anxiously await the steaming buckets of free rice delivered to their desks. But by the end of the month, they will no longer get free breakfast from the U.N. World Food Program. About 450,000 Cambodian students will become the latest victims of soaring global food prices. Five local suppliers have defaulted on contracts to provide rice because they can get a higher price elsewhere, program officials say. Prices of rice have tripled on the global market since December.

World

Iraqi army: 6 teens trained as suicide bombers

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi military on Monday displayed a group of weeping teenagers who said they had been forced into training for suicide bombings by a Saudi militant in the last urban stronghold of al-Qaida in Iraq.

Four of the six boys were lined up for the media at police headquarters in the northern city of Mosul, where they said they had been training for a month to start suicide operations in early June.

The United Nations and the Iraqi and U.S. militaries say they fear that al-Qaida in Iraq is increasingly trying to use youths in attacks to avoid the heightened security measures that have dislodged the group from Baghdad and surrounding areas.

The youths, three wearing track suits and one with a torn white T-shirt, began crying as they were led into the police station.

"The Saudi insurgent threatened to rape our mothers and sisters, destroy our houses and kill our fathers if we did not cooperate with him," one of the youths, who were not identified, told reporters in Mosul, where security forces are cracking down on al-Qaida in Iraq and other Sunni insurgents.

Iraqi soldiers acting on tips found the youths, who ranged in age from 14 to 18, in the basement of an abandoned house on Monday after the Saudi militant who was training them was killed in military operations last week, deputy Interior Minister Kamal Ali Hussein said.

AP

Four of six Iraqi teenage boys purportedly being trained as suicide bombers stand in front of a wall inside the police headquarters of Mosul, 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday, May 26, 2008.

In April, the U.N. said rising numbers of Iraqi youths have been recruited into militias and insurgent groups, including some serving as suicide bombers. It called them "silent victims of the continued violence." There have also been several recent suicide bombings by women.

The U.S. military released several videos in February seized from suspected al-Qaida in Iraq hideouts that showed militants training children who appeared as young as 10 to kidnap and kill. The U.S. military said at the time that al-Qaida in Iraq was teaching teenage boys how to build car bombs and go on suicide missions.

Children have also been used as decoys in Iraq.

Mosul is believed to be al-Qaida in Iraq's last urban base of operations. U.S. and Iraqi forces launched a crackdown this month in the city of nearly 2 million people 225 miles northwest of Baghdad.

The boys were found during a raid in the insurgent stronghold of Sumar, one of the poorest and most dangerous neighborhoods in southeastern Mosul. Police declined to say what charges they could face pending a final investigation.

WORLD BRIEFS

IAEA: Iran may be withholding info in nuke probe

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Iran may be withholding information needed to establish whether it tried to make nuclear arms, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Monday in an unusually strongly worded report. The tone of the language suggesting Tehran continues to stonewall the U.N. nuclear monitor revealed a glimpse of the frustration felt by agency investigators stymied in their attempts to gain full answers to suspicious aspects of Iran's past nuclear activities. A senior U.N. official familiar with the investigation into Iran's nuclear program said none of the dozens of agency reports issued in that context had ever been as plain spoken in calling Tehran to task for not being forthright.

Hezbollah has warning for Lebanon's new government

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP)—Lebanon's new president got a red carpet welcome Monday, but was quickly thrust into the political thicket as Hezbollah's leader warned against any efforts to disarm his Iranian-backed guerrilla group. Sheik Hassan Nasrallah delivered his stern message after military bands and an honor guard saluted President Michel Suleiman on his first day on the job. Suleiman, the former army commander, was a consensus candidate agreed on by both Hezbollah and its pro-Western political foes, but he drew pointed comments from Nasrallah after saying in his inauguration speech Sunday that there should be a dialogue over Hezbollah's arsenal.

Berlin Philharmonic fire blamed on welding work

BERLIN (AP)—A fire that tore through the roof of the Berlin Philharmonic's landmark concert hall was sparked by welding work, investigators said Monday. The blaze broke out below the roof of the famed 1960s building near the capital's Potsdamer Platz last Tuesday and sent acrid smoke billowing over Berlin. Firefighters had to remove about one-quarter of the roof's metal cladding—some 17,000 square feet—to get at the blaze and put it out. There was virtually no serious structural damage or harm to the interior of the building. Although the main concert hall escaped with only slight water damage, the building will remain closed until at least June 2.

US tourist is drugged, killed by train in Rome

ROME (AP)—An American tourist was killed by a train as he walked on the tracks in a daze after he drank a cappuccino laced with drugs and then was robbed, railway police said Monday.

Frank Phel, 74, of California, died early Friday at the suburban Tiburtina station, police official Giovanni Piccolantonio said. Phel's hometown was not disclosed.

The suspected robber, a 54-year-old Italian man who was arrested Saturday, had chatted with Phel and his wife before fetching them cappuccinos at a local cafe and then adding a mix of drugs including sleeping pills, Piccolantonio said.

"This man approached these two tourists and earned their trust, and then offered them two cappuccinos with drugs," Piccolantonio said.

The robbery was filmed by security cameras at a nearby cafe, Piccolantonio said. Footage from other cameras also showed the man stumbling near the tracks, where he ended up by accident.

Canada's foreign minister resigns

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's embattled foreign minister resigned for leaving classified documents in a nonsecure location, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced Monday, calling the breach "a serious error."

Harper

Harper said that he accepted the resignation of Maxime Bernier, who came under fire in recent weeks amid reports that a former girlfriend had previous relationships with Hells Angels motorcycle gang members.

"Mr. Bernier has learned and informed me that he left classified documents in a nonsecure location. This is a serious error," Harper said.

Harper said that Bernier's controversial relationship with the woman was not a factor in the resignation.

But it was announced as Bernier's former girlfriend, Julie Couillard, was preparing to go on a French-language television station to say that Bernier had been careless with classified documents.

"It's only this error. It's a very serious mistake for any minister. We must always accept responsibilities for the documents that are classified. The minister has immediately acknowledged the gravity of this mistake," Harper said.

The documents were left at a private residence earlier this spring, Harper said in a statement. He did not say what the documents were or if they were shared with others.

Bernier wrote in a letter of resignation that he asked the Foreign Affairs Department to conduct a thorough review of the situation.

"Prime Minister, the security breach that occurred was my fault and my fault alone and I take full responsibility for my actions," Bernier wrote.

Harper said David Emerson, the international trade minister, will take over as interim foreign minister.

UN: Russian plane downed Georgian drone

MOSCOW (AP)—A Russian fighter jet shot down an unmanned Georgian spy plane over the separatist Abkhazia region last month, U.N. observers said Monday in a report likely to bolster U.S.-allied Georgia's claim the Kremlin is undermining its territorial integrity.

In recent months, the government of Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has used drones to monitor Abkhazia and the peacekeeping force that Russia has reinforced there. Russian officials denied again on Monday that they had anything to do with the aircraft being shot down.

Saakashvili's efforts to move the former Soviet republic from under Russia's shadow and into NATO and the European Union have angered Moscow, which is supporting local leaders in Abkhazia and another Georgian breakaway area, South Ossetia.

The West's interest in the dispute is strong because Georgia sits at the crossroads for Central Asian and Caspian Sea oil and natural gas headed to Western markets.

The Georgian drone was shot down on April 20, and a video it transmitted before being destroyed shows a fighter jet firing a missile at it.

The region's separatist government claimed one of its L-39 jets was responsible. However, the video showed the jet that fired the missile had a distinctive twin-finned tail, while L-39s have single-fin tails.

AP

MAKESHIFT LIVES

Displaced immigrants wash their clothes at a temporary camp set up outside the Primrose Methodist Church, east of Johannesburg, Sunday May 25, 2008. Thousands of foreigners remain in makeshift camps after being chased from their homes by stick- and knife-wielding mobs of South Africans who accuse immigrants of taking jobs and blame them for crime.

Campus Life

Influx of Indian students finds secure community

By LARRY GORDON
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—At the Manas grocery store and restaurant near the University of Southern California, graduate students from Mumbai and New Delhi stop by late at night to pick up a batch of malai kofta, vegetable dumplings, to fuel their engineering study sessions.

Or they may sit down for a dinner of tandoori chicken and discuss their latest cricket matches.

"If they miss home, they can always come here," said Manas co-owner Kumar Venkata. Increasingly, more USC students do.

With its enormous freezers stocked with microwaveable curries and garlic naan breads of India, Manas is a busy off-campus canteen of sorts for what is said to be the largest group of Indian students in the United States and a culinary symbol of an academic tidal wave from the Indian Ocean.

With a rising middle class better able to finance American university degrees and schools such as USC actively recruiting them, Indians have doubled their presence at U.S. campuses in the last decade. Numbering more than 83,000 last year, they are the largest group of international students in the country, overtaking the Chinese in 2002, surveys show.

USC has had the largest number of foreign students of any campus in the U.S. for six years; last year it enrolled about 7,100 from across the globe, including those on extended internships, according to the nonprofit Institute of International Education.

More than 1,500 Indian citizens are full-time students at USC, only about 100 fewer than the number of black students there.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

University of Southern Caifornia students gather at Dockweiler State Beach to celebrate the Indian national holiday of Holi, in which people splash one another with colored dust and paint. The Indian student community at USC is one of the largest in the U.S.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gaurav Kumar shops regularly at the Manas grocery store in Los Angeles, near the University of Southern California. The store stocks more than 2,000 Indian items, many microwaveable.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Tarun Tyagi, a University of Southern California alumnus, plays cricket at the campus' Cromwell Field. Students hold cricket matches on Friday nights, with team names that reflect popular Indian symbols and USC Trojan pride.

The large contingent of Indian students runs popular Friday-night cricket games under the lights at Cromwell Field, with squads named Trojan Tigers and Leavy Lions. (Some Pakistanis and Australians also play.) Forget about the formal white uniforms; here, cardinal-and-gold T-shirts are the norm and cricketers end their huddles by shouting the USC slogan, "Fight on!"

"It's a big, very big Indian community. It's pretty amazing," said Gaurav Kumar, a master's student from Kolkata, formerly known as Calcutta, who is president of USC's Association of Indian Students.

About 9 percent of all graduate and professional-school students at USC are Indian citizens, heavily concentrated in engineering and its computer-related classes. Kumar, who is studying signal processing and sound systems, said the engineering school's status—eighth in U.S. News & World Report's ranking of graduate programs—and its proximity to so many West Coast high-tech companies make it a desirable brand name among ambitious Indian families.

For the last five years, the engineering school has sponsored recruiting trips to India and hosted crowds of potential applicants at hotel receptions in Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad and Bangalore. The school has also hired a consultant in India to boost the USC name there. The resulting tuition income—without much financial aid spending—helps USC pay for research and professors' salaries, officials said.

"It's very clear that Indian students and Indian parents are willing to invest a lot of money into their education since that's the path to success. And now more of them have that money," said Peggy Blumenthal, executive vice president of the Institute for International Education.

The increased enrollment from India at U.S. universities also reflects a shortage of space in graduate programs in India, as well as the relaxation of some of the strict procedures to obtain a student visa imposed after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Indians enroll at U.S. schools for the expected rewards. "We come here and pay for a rather expensive master's and hopefully get placed in a better job. It's a gamble and a trade-off," said Kumar, 24, who wants to work in the sound side of electronics and possibly do management consulting.

Parag Salve, who grew up in the central Indian city of Nagpur, briefly attended the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago and transferred to USC because it is closer to the computer-chip industry he wants to enter. Plus, he enjoys Los Angeles, which like India is a multiethnic, multilingual society. "It really makes you feel at home. The temperature, the sun, everything," said Salve, who is 23 and active in USC cricket games.

Indian students have organized an Internet welcome wagon that helps newcomers find housing.

They have also boosted attendance at events sponsored by the Hindu Student Organization. On Tuesday evenings, a group of Americans and Indians gather at the glass-walled campus chapel for an "Aarti" prayer service, ritually passing a plate of three candles before an altar statue of the elephant-headed Lord Ganesha and sharing a traditional serving of almonds at the end.

Students from India recently gathered at area beaches to celebrate the giddy spring festival of Holi, following the tradition of throwing colored powder on one another until their skin, hair and clothes looked like they had just been through a sticky rainbow.

Still, the transition to America is not always smooth. High rents push some students into overcrowded and dilapidated housing that other USC students avoid. Some young people from India, more sheltered than many American peers, are shocked by the drinking, parties and dating patterns they observe here. And they have concerns about crime.

At a recent meeting of the Association of Indian Students, USC public safety officer Erwin Valencia spoke about such services as free, late-night escorted rides to off-campus housing. Valencia, born in El Salvador, now knows so many Indians—"I see them all over"—that he has learned many Hindi phrases, jotting down new ones in a notebook he carries.

"Milka khushi huee," (Nice to meet you) he told the group. "Alvida" (Goodbye).

Whatever their regional language at home, exchange students from India generally speak English well, albeit sometimes with strong accents. They must, however, adjust to a less formal style of teaching and learning, said USC professor Cauligi Raghavendra.

Still, he said, students from India today cope with classroom practices and California culture more easily than his generation did.

"Even before they come here, these kids already have one foot in the U.S. They see the Internet, the social networks, the movies," said Raghavendra, who teaches electrical engineering and helps with recruiting in India.

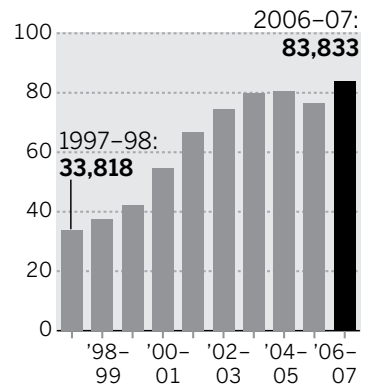
The path after graduation is changing too. It was common in the previous generation for Indian students to seek to stay in the U.S. after school. Now, many say they want to burnish their resumes in the U.S. for a few years, then return home to partake in the high-tech boom that is transforming parts of their homeland.

"I would definitely like going back because the scene back at home is amazing, as good as it is over here," said Urvi Savla, 24, who came to USC from Mumbai last fall to study engineering management. "With all the dot-coms, the job market is huge, and if you have a USC degree, it does make a difference. The name counts. It's a brand name."

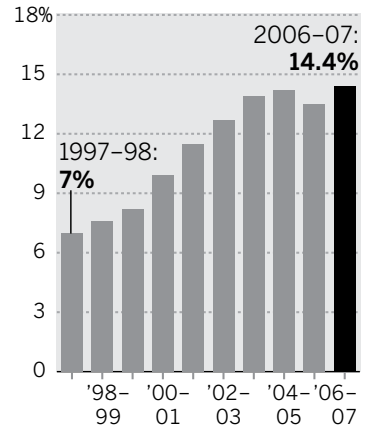
Enrollment

People from India now constitute the largest group of foreign students at U.S. colleges, with Chinese in second place.

Students from India studying in the U.S. (in thousands)



Indians as a percentage of all foreign students in the U.S.



Source: Institute of International Education

Los Angeles Times

Life & Style

Malabayabas, Equia are top chefs at Taste

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Winners of the 2008 Taste of the Marianas Chefs competition gather for a photo with the judges and sponsors last Saturday.

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

Marianas Resort and Spa junior chefs Edgardo Malabayabas and Carlito Equia bested 14 other competitors to win first place in the 2008 Taste of the Marianas Chefs Competition held last Saturday.

With an entry they named "Marpi's Red Hot Tropical Barbecue Savour," the two used broiled chuck roll stuffed with chili and fresh herbs to romp off with the top prize in the annual competition.

The win bagged them the $500 cash prize and a certified Angus beef gift package, which included polo shirts, steak, knives, apron, hat and pens.

Malabayabas and Equia said they would use the money to party with their co-workers.

Second place honors went to junior chefs Edgardo Casing and Alfredo Capacio of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan with their "Summer Island BBQ Delight." Their recipe called for barbecue ground chuck roll with island fruits and watermelon sauce.

The second place winner gets to receive a $300 value and gift packages.

The third place winners were Richard Santos and Nestor Mosquito of Aqua Resort Club. Their theme was "Saipan's Pride," a variation on hinetnon katne (roast beef of chuck roll).

Other participants in this year's competition were Palms Resort Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan World Resort and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The competition judges were Jim Arenovski, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president and Delta Management managing partner; Joe Guerrero, Saipancell Communications general sales manager; Alex Sablan, Saipan Shipping general sales manager; and Marcia Schultz of Carlsmith Ball LLP.

The sponsors for the event were Triple J, Hotel Association Northern Marianas Islands and Marianas Visitors Authority.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

First place Marianas Resort and Spa junior chefs Edgardo Malabayabas and Carlito Equia show off their creation "Broiled chuck roll stuffed with chili and fresh herbs".

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Second place Fiesta Resort & Spa junior chefs Edgardo Casing and Alfredo Capacio with their creation "BBQ ground chuck roll with island fruits and watermelon sauce."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Pacific Islands Club junior chefs Enrique Evangelista Jr. and Gines Hingpit with their entry "Asian rub charbroiled chuck roll with guava BBQ sauce".

Third place Aqua Resort Club Richard Santos and Nestor Mosquito show their creation "Hinetnon Katne" (roast beef of chuck roll).

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Palms Resort Saipan junior chefs Samson Tan and Maximo Mendoza with their creation "Chuck roll in coconut with atsuete rice."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hyatt Regency Saipan junior chefs Pio Pilapil and Greg Ngirarios with their creation "Pan seared chuck roll beef roulade with ripe mango tartar dip."

Saipan World Resort junior chefs Roman Neri and Eduardo Gallardo show off their creation "Chuck roll sushi."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guam's Food Guy Ken Stewart and Triple J Five Star Wholesale Jay Santos pose with 2008 Taste of the Marianas Chefs Competition first place winner Marianas Resort and Spa junior chefs Edgardo Malabayabas, Carlito Equia and executive chef William Retardo.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Life & Style

Sydney Pollack dies of cancer at 73

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Academy Award-winning director Sydney Pollack, a Hollywood mainstay who achieved commercial success and critical acclaim with the gender-bending comedy "Tootsie" and the period drama "Out of Africa" while often dabbling as a television and movie actor, has died. He was 73.

Pollack died of cancer Monday afternoon at his home in Pacific Palisades in Los Angeles, surrounded by family, said publicist Leslee Dart. Pollack had been diagnosed with cancer about nine months ago, said Dart.

Pollack, who occasionally appeared on the big screen himself, worked with and gained the respect of Hollywood's best actors in a long career that reached prominence in the 1970s and 1980s.

"Sydney made the world a little better, movies a little better and even dinner a little better. A tip of the hat to a class act," George Clooney said in a statement from his publicist.

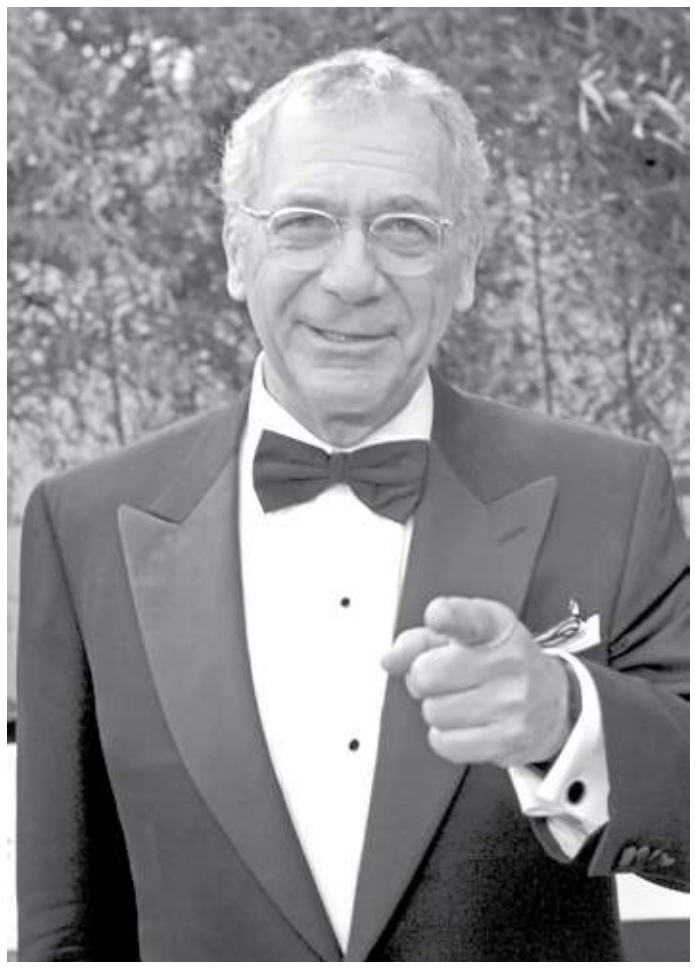
"He'll be missed terribly," Clooney said.

Last fall, he played law firm boss Marty Bach opposite Clooney in "Michael Clayton," a drama that examines the life of fixer for lawyers. The film, which Pollack co-produced, received seven Oscar nominations, including for best picture and a best actor nod for Clooney. Tilda Swinton won the Oscar for supporting actress.

Pollack was no stranger to the Academy Awards. In 1986, "Out of Africa" a romantic epic of a woman's passion set against the landscape of colonial Kenya, captured seven Oscars, including best director and best picture.

In accepting his Oscar, Pollack commended Meryl Streep, who was nominated for best actress but didn't win.

"I could not have made this movie without Meryl Streep," Pollack said. "She is astounding—personally, professionally, all ways."



AP

In this Sept. 25, 2006 file photo, Sydney Pollack arrives to the opening of the Metropolitan Opera 2006/07 season in New York.

Over the years, several of his other films, including "Tootsie" and "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" got several nominations, including best director nods.

The list of actors he directed reads like a who's who of Hollywood A-listers: Sally Field and Paul Newman in "Absence of Malice," Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn in "The Interpreter," Robert Mitchum in "The Yakuza," Tom Cruise in "The Firm," Robert Redford in "Three Days of the Condor," and Redford and Barbra Streisand in "The Way We Were," and other big-name actors in other films.

"Having the opportunity to know Sydney and work with him was a great gift in my life," Field said in a statement. "He was a good friend and a phenomenal director and I will cherish every moment that I ever spent with him."

In later years, he devoted more time to acting, appearing in Woody Allen's "Husbands and Wives," Robert Altman's "The Player," Robert Zemeckis' "Death Becomes Her," and Stanley Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut."

His last screen appearance was in "Made of Honor," a romantic comedy currently in theaters, where he played the oft-married father of star Patrick Dempsey's character.

Pollack had an occasional recurring role on the NBC sitcom "Will & Grace" playing Will's (Eric McCormack) father, and also appeared in the "The Sopranos," "Frasier" and "Mad About You."

Pollack also produced many independent films with filmmaker Anthony Minghella, who died in March, and the production company Mirage Enterprises. His recent producing credits include "The Talented Mr. Ripley" and "Cold Mountain."

The Lafayette, Ind. native was born to first-generation Russian-Americans. In high school in South Bend, he fell in love with theater, a passion that prompted him to forego college and move to New York and enroll in the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater.

Studying under Sanford Meisner, Pollack spent several years cutting his teeth in various areas of theater, eventually becoming Meisner's assistant.

"We started together in New York and he always excelled at everything he set out to do, his friendships and his humanity as much as his talents," said Martin Landau, a longtime close friend and associate in the Actors Studio, through spokesman Dick Guttman.

After appearing in a handful of Broadway productions in the 1950s, Pollack turned his eye to directing - where he would ultimately leave his biggest mark.

"Sydney let the dialogue and the emotion of a scene speak for itself. Not given to cinematic tricks, his gentle and thoughtful touch and his focus on the story let us inhabit the world he created in each film," said Michael Apted, president of the Directors Guild of America.

In the "The Interpreter," that world was the United Nations. The first feature film to be shot inside the U.N., Pollack had never been inside the Manhattan landmark until starting work on the film in 2004.

Yale gives McCartney honorary degree

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Paul McCartney can now add one more honor to the numerous awards, accolades and the knighthood he has already received.

The ex-Beatle on Monday was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Yale University.

McCartney

In granting the honorary degree to McCartney—Sir Paul McCartney since he was knighted in 1996—the university said no one compares with the legendary songwriter.

Yale said the 65-year-old McCartney awakened a generation, giving a fresh sound to rock and roll and to rhythm and blues.

A band played "Hey Jude," a Beatles hit, as McCartney walked on stage to accept the honorary degree.

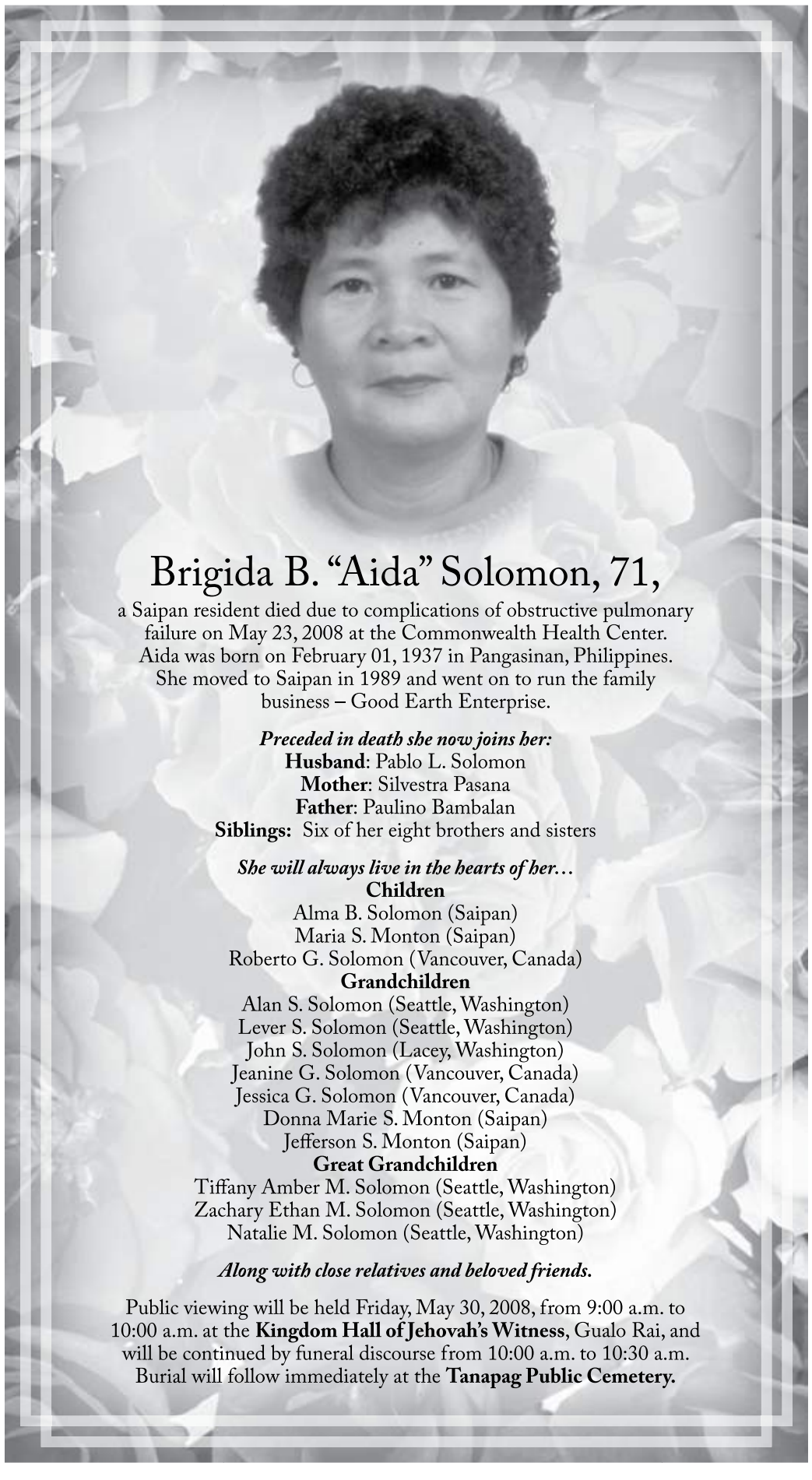
Yale University President Richard Levin evoked some of the songwriter's most memorable lines.

"Here, there and everywhere," Levin said, quoting a line from a Beatles song, "you have pushed the boundaries of the familiar to create new classics. We admire your musical genius and your generous support of worthy causes."

New Haven was the site of a British invasion of sorts on Sunday, as McCartney and former Prime Minister Tony Blair were in town for Yale's 307th commencement. Blair's eldest son, Euan, is completing a two-year master's program in international relations, and the former prime minister, who is to teach a course in the fall, gave a speech Sunday to Yale students on foreign relations.

McCartney on Sunday toured a downtown art gallery and dined with Yale dignitaries.

Yale also conferred honorary degrees on former U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, astronomer Martin Rees, architect Cesar Pelli, poet John Lawrence Ashbery and others.



Brigida B. "Aida" Solomon, 71,

a Saipan resident died due to complications of obstructive pulmonary failure on May 23, 2008 at the Commonwealth Health Center. Aida was born on February 01, 1937 in Pangasinan, Philippines. She moved to Saipan in 1989 and went on to run the family business – Good Earth Enterprise.

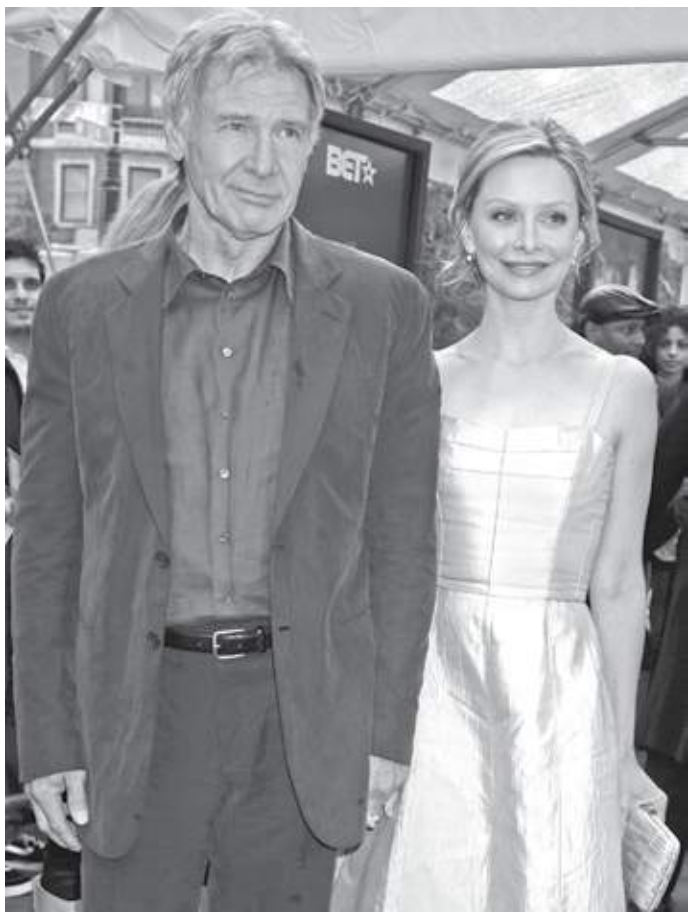
Preceded in death she now joins her:
Husband: Pablo L. Solomon
Mother: Silvestra Pasana
Father: Paulino Bambalan
Siblings: Six of her eight brothers and sisters

She will always live in the hearts of her…
Children
Alma B. Solomon (Saipan)
Maria S. Monton (Saipan)
Roberto G. Solomon (Vancouver, Canada)
Grandchildren
Alan S. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)
Lever S. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)
John S. Solomon (Lacey, Washington)
Jeanine G. Solomon (Vancouver, Canada)
Jessica G. Solomon (Vancouver, Canada)
Donna Marie S. Monton (Saipan)
Jefferson S. Monton (Saipan)
Great Grandchildren
Tiffany Amber M. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)
Zachary Ethan M. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)
Natalie M. Solomon (Seattle, Washington)

Along with close relatives and beloved friends.

Public viewing will be held Friday, May 30, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the **Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witness**, Gualo Rai, and will be continued by funeral discourse from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Burial will follow immediately at the **Tanapag Public Cemetery.**

'Indiana Jones' earns $311M worldwide



AP

Harrison Ford arrives with actress Calista Flockhart for the premiere of his new movie, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," Tuesday, May 20, 2008, in New York.

1. "**Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull**," $126 million (plus $25.1 million on Thursday).
2. "**The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**," $28.6 million.
3. "**Iron Man**," $25.7 million.
4. "**What Happens in Vegas**," $11.2 million.
5. "**Speed Racer**," $5.2 million.
6. "**Made of Honor**," $4.2 million.
7. "**Baby Mama**," $4.2 million.
8. "**Forgetting Sarah Marshall**," $2.2 million.
9. "**Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay**," $1.2 million.
10. "**The Visitor**," $917,000.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The most recent Indiana Jones film more than recouped its big budget with an estimated $311 million in global box office sales through the long weekend, according to studio estimates Monday.

Families went in droves to catch "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," a PG-13 adventure starring Harrison Ford as the whip-cracking archaeologist who took 19 years to return to the big screen.

Paramount Pictures estimated the action sequel made $151.1 million in the U.S. and Canada from Thursday to the holiday Monday and $160 million overseas.

It marked the second biggest Memorial Day weekend opening ever, behind only "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," which made $153 million domestically from Thursday to Monday last year.

Nearly a third of the domestic audience was made up of parents with their children, said Rob Moore, president of Paramount Worldwide Distribution.

"Adults really drove this opening. This is one of their favorite franchises and they couldn't wait to take their kids with them," Moore said.

The film cost a reported $185 million to make, even with the principal talent—Ford, director Steven Spielberg and writer George Lucas—deferring their usual fees for a greater share of the profits.

The first three Indy movies raked in $1.2 billion worldwide.

Marketing costs were undisclosed, although the latest "Indiana Jones" received a major push from Paramount. DVDs of the first three movies were re-released, they aired on TV days before the opening and huge billboards sprung up.

The final trailer for the movie rolled before the opening of Marvel Studios' "Iron Man," which was also distributed by Paramount, three weeks earlier.

"It's been a pretty good month," Moore said. "We started the month with 'Iron Man' and finished with 'Indiana Jones.'"

Other movies' receipts over the long weekend paled by comparison.

Disney's "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" slashed its way to $28.6 million, for a total $96.7 million over two weeks. "Iron Man" locked up third with $25.7 million in its third week for a total of $257.8 million.

The Wachowski brothers flick "Speed Racer," distributed by Warner Bros., crawled closer to the finish line with $5.2 million for fifth, bringing its domestic total to $37.4 million. It brought in $30 million overseas, and had yet to be released in major markets France, Russia, Japan and Australia.

The studio said it was not ready to wave the checkered flag on the film, which cost $120 million to make.

"If I had my druthers I'd have it in theaters for weeks and months to come," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.' executive vice president of distribution.

For the year so far, domestic movie revenues are down more than 4 percent at $3.4 billion, with attendance off nearly 7 percent.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Monday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

MONDAY MOVIE BUZZ

Shia LaBeouf goes Brando in 'Indy'

In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Shia LaBeouf is shown in a scene from the film, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Whether critics walked out of "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" loving or hating it, most had something to say about Shia LaBeouf's dramatic entrance.

The 21-year-old actor plays Harrison Ford's sidekick in this fourth installment in the Indy franchise, and when he first appears on screen, he's a dead ringer for Marlon Brando's young punk in 1953's "The Wild One."

We're not talking a kinda-sorta resemblance. He's got the same off-kilter cap, same black leather jacket and he rides up on a motorcycle, full of 'tude. Brando played the leader of a biker gang that terrorized a small town back then. But LaBeouf? As young Mutt Williams, he's still a rebel in search of a cause in Steven Spielberg's latest blockbuster, set in 1957. And to his credit, the actor knows it.

"Steven wrote a little note on my script that said, 'OK, now it's time to transform yourself into Mutt! Signed, Steven,' and then he gave me three movies to watch," LaBeouf says in the film's production notes. They were: "Blackboard Jungle," "Rebel Without a Cause" and—wouldn't you know it?—"The Wild One."

"As though I was supposed to go home and watch 'The Wild One' and go, 'Oh yeah, I see how Marlon Brando did it!'" he adds.

But how convincing is LaBeouf? Most critics reviewing "Crystal Skull" mention the homage merely in passing, without passing judgment.

Kenneth Turan of the Los Angeles Times said the young actor is "introduced as a total copy of Marlon Brando on a motorcycle in 'The Wild One,'" and adds, "LaBeouf doesn't seem completely comfortable in his disaffected teen role, a part that does not play to the innate likability that is one of his strengths."

In a rare pan of the movie, Chicago Tribune critic Michael Phillips said disdainfully that LaBeouf's entrance "rips off Brando." And Robert Wilonsky of the Village Voice newspaper chain riffs that he's "The Mild One."

It certainly wasn't easy for costume designer Mary Zophres, whose job it was to come up with LaBeouf's trademark ensemble of leather jackets and motorcycle boots. She and colleague Jenny Eagan found several vintage jackets and had LaBeouf try them all on until they discovered the one that looked best. Then they had to recreate it several times.

"Mutt was inspired by Marlon Brando in 'The Wild One,'" Zophres says in the press notes, continuing the theme. "We had to make about 30 of those motorcycle jackets because Shia does a lot of stunts and his costume got worn and dirty."

Fans of the former child star, who won a Daytime Emmy in 2003 for the Disney Channel series "Even Stevens," may have a hard time accepting him as a tough guy. But as LaBeouf said last year in an interview with The Associated Press—when rumors of his casting in "Indiana Jones" were swirling but still unconfirmed—this is a transition he's been planning for a long time.

"I want to get bigger. I'm sick of being a boy," LaBeouf said then of his workout regimen while promoting the teen thriller "Disturbia."

"I know that there's this innocence that I have but I feel like I've played that guy. The whole goal for me has been diversity and diversifying your portfolio and making sure you do a whole bunch of different things and you don't get typecast. If I become a type, my career is over.

"I want to be an intimidating presence. I want to be a ... killer."

There's still plenty of time for LaBeouf to prove himself. If you read into the symbolism at the end of the movie, Mutt may eventually have to trade in his cap and leather jacket for Indy's famous fedora and bullwhip.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving memory of our beloved

†Dolores Reyes Sablan

"Ling"

We the family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our dearly beloved †Dolores Reyes Sablan.

Daily mass will be celebrated at Kristo Rai Church every morning at 6:00 a.m beginning Monday, June 2 to Monday, June 9, 2008.

Please join us in prayer.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
Thank You and Salamat Po.

Manuel T. Sablan and Family

Cannes 2008: Lots of stars, and some movies, of course

CANNES, France (AP)—Indy made his comeback at Cannes, and Woody came back as usual. Angelina showed off her baby bump on the red carpet, and Madonna sold off everything in her handbag at a charity auction.

This year's Cannes Film Festival, which ended Sunday, had plenty of celebrities to please the star-watchers—but moviegoers were more disappointed.

There were few real favorites in the lineup of Cannes' showcase competition, and with a few exceptions, the films were mostly dark and gloomy. Set in locations such as a prison, a slum and a porno theater, the films tackled subjects from murder to angst to hopelessness. And it didn't help that Cannes' weather was rainy.

As the festival drew to a close, jury president Sean Penn admitted to Le Monde newspaper that he wished there had been more comedies in the bunch.

So it was no wonder that Penn's jury gave its top prize to the charming "The Class," a look at big and small dramas inside a French school and a surprise hit at the end of the festival. Though it tackles the often-pondered subjects of immigration and identity, Laurent Cantet's film seems fresh because the teenage actors are so true to life—endearing, funny and obnoxious.

The movie was filmed with real students in their high school in a working-class Paris neighborhood. The jury's decision to give it the main prize was unanimous, and Penn called it "a seamless film."

"All of the performances: magic," he said. "All of the writing: magic. All of the provocations, and all of the generosity: magic. It's simply everything that you want film to give you."

AP

American actors Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie arrive for the premiere of the film "Changeling" at the 61st International film festival in Cannes, southern France, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

Once again, the top prize slipped away from Clint Eastwood, who has had five films in competition here, including this year's missing child drama "Changeling." In Cannes, Eastwood also attended a special beach showing of 1971's "Dirty Harry."

"If you have trouble recognizing me, I'm the man with the brown hair and lots of it," he told the crowd. Eastwood and French actress Catherine Deneuve took special prizes to mark the festival's 61st anniversary.

Two movies about Italy's dark side were also winners. Cannes Matteo Garrone's "Gomorrah," about Naples' mob scene, took the second-place grand prize, while Paolo Sorrentino's "Il Divo," about former Premier Giulio Andreotti and allegations of his ties to organized crime, won the jury award.

Benicio Del Toro seemed a logical choice for best actor for his portrayal of revolutionary Che Guevara, though some critics snoozed during Steven Soderbergh's 4 1/2 hour "Che."

The best actress pick was a surprise. Brazil's Sandra Corveloni won for the ensemble drama "Linha de Passe"—she played a cleaning lady and mother of four in her first feature film. Angelina Jolie had been a favorite in the category for her portrayal of a distraught mother in "Changeling."

Pregnancy has never looked so glamorous as when Jolie, carrying twins, walked the red carpet in a low-cut emerald green gown. Jolie was in Cannes for two premieres, "Changeling" and "Kung Fu Panda," which wasn't competing for prizes but provided some comic relief. Jack Black, who voiced the martial arts-loving title character, hammed it up at the beach with 40 people in panda suits.

Black summed up Cannes this way: "The food, the people, the boats and the movies. Last night I had a foie gras lollipop. I'm not even kidding. Pretty amazing."

Meanwhile, Madonna the Material Girl showed her humanitarian side with a documentary she produced on Malawi's AIDS orphans, "I Am Because We Are." She also auctioned off a white guitar, a private mini-concert and the contents of her purse at a benefit for the American Foundation for AIDS Research.

Woody Allen was back for more love from Cannes, where he has shown 10 films over the years. Critics enjoyed his new love triangle romance, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," starring Scarlett Johansson, Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz, which wasn't competing for prizes.

Neither was "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," which got a mixed review from Cannes' tough critics, 19 years after Indy's previous installment. Nonetheless, star-gazers and paparazzi turned out in force for a glimpse of Harrison Ford in a formal attire, strolling up the red carpet as the series theme song played.

CNN, Newsweek editor starting int'l show

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN is starting a weekly talk show on international issues led by Newsweek's Fareed Zakaria that will debut next Sunday with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair as an interview subject.

"Fareed Zakaria—GPS," which stands for "global public square," will air Sundays at 1 p.m. EDT and be rebroadcast at a yet-to-be determined time on CNN International.

CNN U.S. chief Jonathan Klein approached Zakaria about a year ago and was told that "the only show I want to do is one that fills in the huge gaping hole in American television, which is 95 percent of the rest of the world," Zakaria said in an interview with the Associated Press on Monday.

Zakaria, a columnist and editor of Newsweek International, wrote the just-published book, "The Post-American World."

He said he's frustrated when he turns on American news networks to hear endless discussions about why Hillary Clinton should or shouldn't leave the presidential race, because there is legitimate news elsewhere. He fears a vicious circle is at work: Networks don't show much international news because they fear viewers aren't interested, and viewers aren't interested because they get so little of it.

Zakaria also said he understands the need to make a compelling program that won't seem like the college seminar you tried to skip.

"People instinctively think they're going to be bored by this and you have to grab them by the lapels," he said.

He said he hoped the show would lend perspective to what is happening and would be "less perishable" than a typical news show. For example, the earthquake in China might lead to a discussion about what the tragedy means to the country's economy or politics.

"I don't want to be off the news," he said. "I don't want to be doing Turkey the week the earthquake hits China. But I don't want to just be doing the earthquake."

The show will have a centerpiece interview, about 20 minutes long. Blair, now an international peace envoy, will be the first subject. Zakaria said he'd like to interview Afghan President Hamid Karzai together on the screen with Pakistan's new leader to discuss problems between the two countries.

New York gallery owner arrested for serving drinks

EAST HAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—Wine, cheese—and police?

An East Hampton art gallery owner was led away in handcuffs Saturday after she refused to stop serving drinks at an opening bash for a celebrity photo exhibit. As about 200 startled guests looked on, Ruth Kalb—generally known as Ruth Vered, after her gallery's name—was arrested on a charge of selling alcohol without a liquor license.

"I told them I've been doing this since before they were born," said Vered, 67, whose gallery has been a fixture of the Hamptons art scene for more than 30 years. "They have some nerve."

She said the wine and Champagne were free.

Mayor Paul Rickenbach said police were just doing their job.

"It's not something that's new and out of the blue at all," he said.

Vered was throwing the party—during the traditional Memorial Day weekend start of the resort's summer season—to celebrate an exhibit of photographs of Madonna, Justin Timberlake, Angelina Jolie and other stars.

Vered is due to be arraigned June 25 in East Hampton Town Court.

Daughter can't convince her parents to change their diet

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I am greatly worried about the health of my parents. My mother has Type 2 diabetes, and my father has high cholesterol and blood pressure. Both of them have poor eating habits.

I have tried convincing them to eat healthier and exercise, but they are stuck in their old ways. Mom still brings home cookies, brownies and candy, and Dad still eats cheese and deep-fried foods. How can I get them to adopt a healthier lifestyle?

DEEPLY CONCERNED DAUGHTER, LOS GATOS, CALIF.

DEAR DAUGHTER: As much as you love your parents, you cannot do for them what they refuse to do for themselves. I am assuming that their physician has warned them about what will happen if they continue eating the way they do.

You can offer encouragement, but you cannot force them to give up their unhealthy lifestyle. You can also learn from their poor example and not backslide into the eating habits you learned as a child growing up in their household.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A group of us from work go out for drinks a few times a week. My boss's husband hits on me in front of her, and she doesn't say anything. A few of my co-workers are lesbians, and they hit on me, too. I don't have a boyfriend, but I have never been attracted to people of the same sex. I enjoy going out, but feel uncomfortable, and they are my only friends. How do I stop all this nonsense?

BRENDA ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR BRENDA: The surest way to "stop the nonsense" would be to quit mixing business and personal relationships. Inform your boss that her husband's behavior is sexual harassment, and you want her to put a stop to it. Tell your co-workers that while you like them, you are straight, and if they don't stop hitting on you, you will report it to your boss. And last, instead of socializing with these people after work, join a gym or sign up for a class where you will meet new people and develop new relationships.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 21, but look a few years younger than my age. I recently underwent a procedure at my orthodontist's office that turned out to be more painful than expected. It lasted almost an hour, and one of the professionals seemed to think it would be helpful to talk "baby talk" to me for the entire duration. Being talked to like that, in addition to the pain I was experiencing, was extremely irritating.

A few of my friends have told me that they have also been treated this way by medical professionals. What would be a polite way to tell someone to just shut up with the baby talk?

IRRITATED ADULT IN BOSTON

DEAR IRRITATED ADULT: You should not tell the person to "shut up with the baby talk." Your message will come across stronger if you tell the person—once the procedure is finished—that being spoken to like a child was patronizing, and in the future you would prefer to be spoken to like the adult you are.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: After my kids come home from swim practice at the local high school, my wife insists they take a shower to clean off. I figure that any chemicals added to the pool, like chlorine, will kill off the germs. So my question is, is it necessary to shower after swimming in a chlorinated pool?

FATHER KNOWS BEST (IN SAN DIEGO)

DEAR FATHER: In this case, mother knows best. Chlorine is a harsh chemical that is drying to the skin and damaging to the hair. Your children should listen to their mother, and you should stop trying to undercut her.

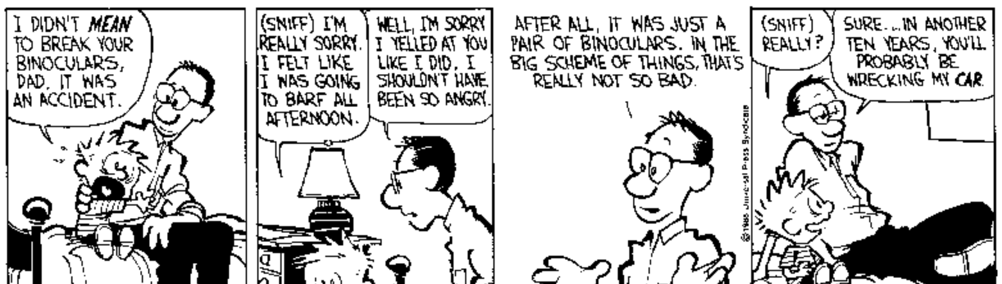
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

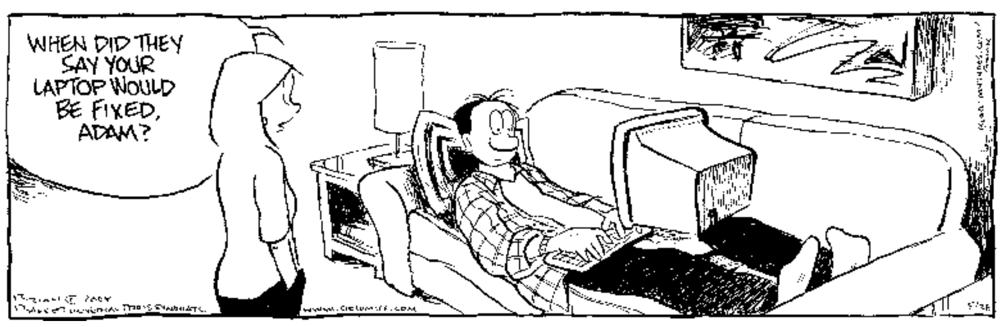


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Shirk work
5 Intimidate
8 Sister/ wife of Osiris
12 Cleese co-star
13 Rush
14 Stereo counter-part
15 Easy question
17 Dubious
18 Bullet with a smoke trail
19 Gambling games
21 Scenery chewer
22 "Pyg-malion" play-wright
23 Sibling, for short
26 Crucial
28 Rise
31 Door handle
33 "— Kapital"
35 Pennsyl-vania port
36 Further down the page
38 Reason to say "alas"
40 TV Tarzan Ron
41 Unbeliev-able, as a tale
43 Ref
45 With dili-gence
47 Saint's day celebra-tion
51 Carbon com-pound
52 Tap variation
54 Handy pc. of Latin
55 Pussy-cat's partner
56 Poi base
57 Hitchcock tour de force
58 Shelter
59 Portent

DOWN
1 Roster
2 Stench
3 — Romeo
4 Go get
5 Alyssa Milano series
6 Squeak remedy
7 "War of the Worlds" author
8 Copy
9 Computer programs
10 Data
11 Sauce sources
16 Neb
20 Cries of surprise
23 Schuss
24 Hostel
25 Flattery
27 Deviate off course
29 Zero
30 Susan of "L.A. Law"
32 It's read with feeling
34 Puffy dish
37 Every last iota
39 Send forth
42 Disinfec-tant brand
44 Basil-based sauce
45 "Suds"
46 Biblical preposi-tion
48 Counter-feit
49 Raced
50 Lotsa years
53 Have bills

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	B	L	E	■	F	O	P	■	H	I	C	K
C	R	A	G	■	E	V	E	■	A	N	O	N
H	A	N	G	O	V	E	R	■	N	O	D	E
E	N	D	■	P	E	N	■	A	G	N	E	W
■	■	■	H	E	H	■	G	I	L	■	■	■
H	F	M	A	N	■	M	A	R	O	O	N	S
A	M	E	N	■	S	A	Y	■	O	B	O	E
J	U	G	G	L	E	R	■	A	S	I	D	E
■	■	■	T	A	X	■	A	G	E	■	■	■
D	E	T	O	X	■	D	J	O	■	C	B	S
E	C	R	U	■	H	A	N	G	N	A	I	L
W	H	I	G	■	A	R	T	■	U	N	T	O
S	O	P	H	■	Y	E	S	■	B	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 5-28

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joseph Cross, 22; Jesse Bradford, 29; Kylie Minogue, 40; John Fogerty, 63

Happy Birthday: Be careful what and who you take on this year. You won't be able to count on people you have had on your side in the past. Be reasonable about what you can do and size down if necessary. Making some changes to your living arrangements will help you out financially. Be open to suggestions. Your numbers are 4, 10, 16, 21, 35, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your ability to take action and push to get things done will bring results. Talks, travel and making changes to the way you currently earn your living will all be to your benefit. A proposal you make will be considered. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): There will be no hiding what's happening. You will have to counteract what someone is trying to put over on you. Aggressive action may be necessary but anger will be a waste of time. You will have to make a judgment call. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let your emotions cause you to do or say something you'll regret. You will be misled, misinterpreted or misdirected if you deal with someone who is ambitious. Put your effort into passionate encounters, not competitive group endeavors. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't hold back or you will miss out on something good. A life-changing experience is heading your way and, if you are willing to make a jump, you stand to profit. A partnership will bring opportunities with it. Get everything in writing. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give in to someone's demands. You can't continually be the giver. A friendly encounter will lead to an interesting connection that can turn into a lifelong affiliation. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Nothing will remain the same if you are vocal or push for your rights. Don't jump in with the expectation that you can smooth things over. Follow through with a settlement or collection of old debts that can result in more cash in your pocket. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't go overboard, even if it is to impress someone or to advance. In doing so, you are likely to send the wrong message, implying you are extravagant. Strive to get as much as you can with the least amount of cost. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): What you strive for today will pay off in what you learn and how far you can get. Trust in your own judgment. Listen but protect your assets, ideas and future from someone who is trying to take advantage of you. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Emotional problems are apparent and discussions regarding friends, family or community needs and services will lead to trouble and possible isolation. You are better off putting your time into your own projects where you can avoid the intervention of those looking out for themselves. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Stand tall and put anyone in his or her place who tries to threaten you or give you an ultimatum. A change of plans will set whoever is trying to outmaneuver you into a tailspin, allowing you to advance and jump at an opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep things to yourself. As soon as you share your thoughts or feelings, someone is likely to ridicule you or take advantage. Stick close to the people you love and trust. Loyalty will play a big role in the outcome of your day. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Problems with loved ones will lead to personal changes that are quite emotional initially. Be fully prepared to accept the consequences of your actions. Don't take a risk. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and always ready for a challenge. You are a humble winner, willing to share whatever you have with others.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	4						5	7
7		8				1		9
2			1	7	9			8
	8						2	
3			6		4			1
9								3
8			4	2	6			5
	6						4	
		2	5	3	8	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	5	8	3	1	9	7	6
1	8	3	6	9	7	2	4	5
9	7	6	2	5	4	1	8	3
2	4	9	3	7	6	5	1	8
7	5	8	4	1	9	3	6	2
6	3	1	5	8	2	4	9	7
8	1	7	9	2	3	6	5	4
5	6	2	1	4	8	7	3	9
3	9	4	7	6	5	8	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KWANZAA **Solution: 13 letters**

S	S	E	C	I	L	A	H	C	T	F	A	K	C	F
S	R	K	U	U	M	B	A	T	F	M	I	A	A	E
O	E	O	S	E	L	O	W	U	I	M	U	R	D	A
P	D	B	T	M	G	T	L	J	G	A	T	E	S	S
O	A	P	O	S	F	R	U	I	T	S	F	N	A	T
L	E	R	M	R	E	L	E	R	V	H	O	G	J	R
E	L	O	A	I	U	C	E	E	E	I	M	A	O	E
V	R	F	R	N	N	W	N	S	T	S	C	U	M	C
E	I	I	Y	A	I	B	E	A	U	T	I	F	U	L
D	T	T	C	M	T	K	R	E	R	O	O	T	S	A
O	U	H	A	I	Y	E	C	N	K	R	G	G	E	I
O	A	I	N	T	B	U	I	L	D	I	A	N	V	M
F	L	E	D	I	R	P	S	R	V	C	I	O	E	E
S	R	O	L	O	C	A	U	E	R	A	H	S	N	D
N	S	P	E	E	C	H	M	S	I	L	A	E	D	I

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Ancestors, Arts, Beautiful, Build, Candle, Chalice, Civil, Colors, Culture, Customary, Develop, Drum, Ethnic, Faith, Feast, First, Food, Fruits, Gift, Give, Greet, Historical, Idealism, Imani, Karenga, Kinara, Kuumba, Leaders, Liberation, Music, Pride, Profit, Reclaimed, Ritual, Robes, Roots, Self, Seven, Share, Song, Speech, Ujima, Umoja, Unity, Uwole, Week

Yesterday's Answer: Uniqueness

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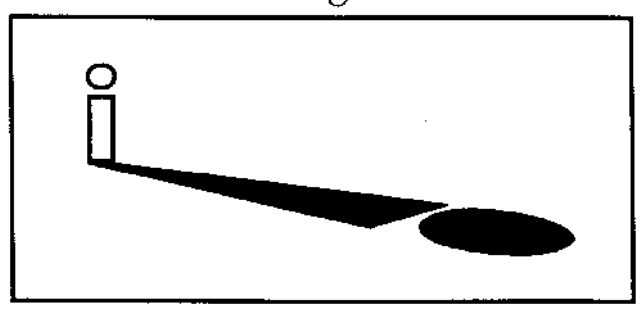

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• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	**$13.00**
2nd position	**$5.00**
Succeeding positions	**$2.00**

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for $.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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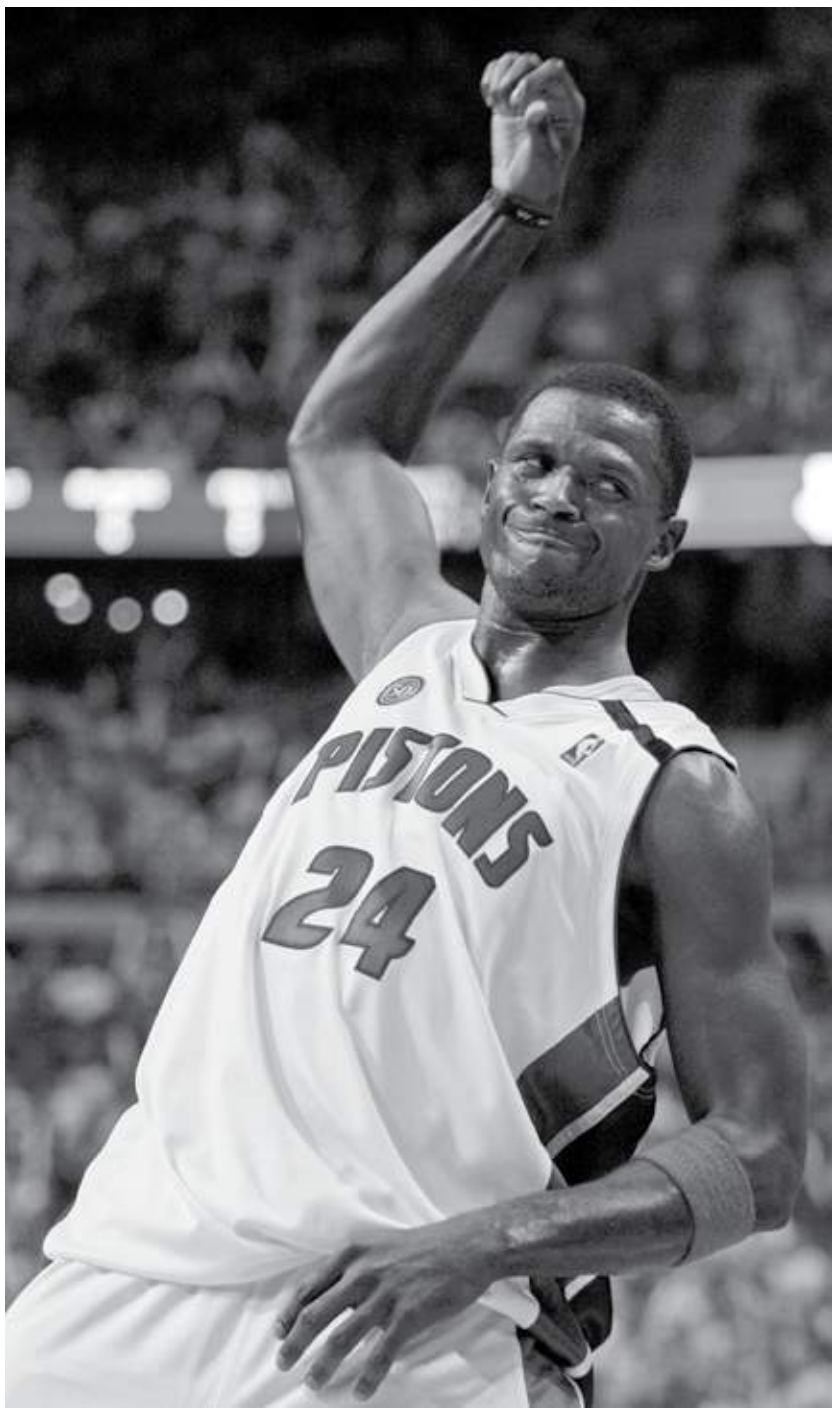
All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

McDyess scores 21; Pistons beat Celtics, tie series 2-2



AP

Detroit Pistons' Antonio McDyess celebrates after making a basket in the third quarter of Game 4 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals against the Boston Celtics on Monday, May 26, 2008, in Auburn Hills, Mich.

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Antonio McDyess refused to let the Detroit Pistons get pushed to the brink of elimination. McDyess had his best game of the playoffs, scoring 21 points and grabbing 16 rebounds to lift Detroit to a 94-75 series-evening win Monday night in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference finals.

"He did everything," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in Boston, then the Pistons will host Game 6 on Friday night.

Boston's Big Three shot awfully as did most of the Celtics, but the NBA's top-seeded team stayed competitive for much of the game thanks to a stark disparity in free throws.

Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen combined to miss their first seven shots and finished 11-for-38 from the field.

Garnett and Pierce both scored 16 points and Allen had 11.

"They bumped us off spots and were more physical and aggressive all night," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "Usually the winner is the team that was more aggressive.

"They had a no-layup rule and that's why we made it to the line so much."

McDyess led the Pistons' balanced attack.

"He's really comfortable right now," Rivers said. "We have to get him out of his comfort zone."

Richard Hamilton had 20 points, Rasheed Wallace scored 14, Chauncey Billups added 10 and reserve Jason Maxiell filled in for teammates in foul trouble by scoring 14 points and playing tough defense—especially against Garnett.

"I thought he bodied him and didn't give him anything easy," Saunders said.

Detroit scored the first 10 points of the game and started the second quarter with an 11-2 run, but led just 43-39 at halftime.

The Celtics stayed in the game by making 17 of 20 free throws in the first half while Detroit was 5-for-9.

Boston had more points from the line (32) than from the field early in the fourth quarter when it pulled within 67-62.

"We didn't play well, but we hung in there by getting to the foul line," Rivers said. "Then, we just couldn't make plays."

The Pistons built some nine-point leads, but they could not put the Celtics away.

Billups essentially sealed the win with a 3-pointer with just under 3 minutes left, making some forget the offensive struggles he had much of the game on his sore right hamstring.

Detroit improved to 5-0 in games following losses in the playoffs and the Celtics fell to 1-7 on the road and 0-6 when trailing after three quarters.

"No one likes it, the way our team personality is," said Saunders, referring to the Pistons' penchant to play their best when down or doubted.

Boston reserve James Posey scored 11 points and Kendrick Perkins, who fouled out, had 10.

The Pistons attacked Boston at both ends of the court as they got off to a strong start.

They led 10-0 thanks to McDyess' eight points and swarming defense that led to Boston missing its first four shots and later having more turnovers (3) than points (2).

"We put a lot of emphasis on the start because that team is so good when they get on top," Billups said. "We didn't want to let them do that again."

Detroit led 18-6 after Billups joined the rest of the starters in the scoring column, then he went about 35 minutes without a field goal.

Controversial agent, Mayo separate

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former USC basketball star O.J. Mayo has been dropped by his agent ahead of the June 26 NBA draft because of the "overwhelming intensity" of allegations that Mayo illegally received cash and gifts.

Mayo had announced that Calvin Andrews of Bill Duffy Associates would represent him. But the Walnut Creek, Calif.-based sports management group issued a statement Thursday saying their association was over.

"Due to the overwhelming intensity of recent allegations regarding the recruitment of O.J. Mayo, we feel that our representation of him is a distraction for he and his family at this time," the statement said.

"This should be the best time in his life and anything that takes away from that enjoyment and the experience of this process is not fair to him."

BDA Sports said it will ask the NBA Players Association to waive the standard 15-day cooling off period so Mayo could sign with a new agent immediately.

Among the NBA players represented by BDA are Carmelo Anthony, Greg Oden, Steve Nash and Yao Ming.

Louis Johnson, a former associate of Mayo's, told ESPN that events promoter Rodney Guillory received money from BDA Sports and funneled cash and gifts to Mayo, who played one season at USC before declaring for the draft.

Mayo has denied the allegations, which are being investigated by the NCAA, Pacific-10 Conference and USC.

Lakers look to get back on track for Game 4

AP

San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan, right, guards Los Angeles Lakers center Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, during the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Western Conference basketball finals, Sunday, May 25, 2008 in San Antonio.

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Lamar Odom had a sleepless night after the Lakers' Game 3 loss to the San Antonio Spurs.

Pau Gasol said it's always hard to get shut eye after a tough loss and Derek Fisher said he slept "decent enough."

Los Angeles coach Phil Jackson wasn't surprised.

"I like players to get their rest, there's no doubt," Jackson said Monday. "But any time you have a game of that importance and you don't play well, you're upset. It's bothersome."

Bothered might be an understatement for Odom.

"I got to the point where I couldn't make a shot," said Odom, who went 2-of-11 from the field and finished with seven points on Sunday. "But then I got to the free throw line and I wasn't making free throws. That can't happen."

Odom, who hit just 3-of-8 from the foul line, wasn't alone in his struggles in the 103-84 loss. Fisher scored just two points on 1-of-4 shooting and Gasol fared somewhat better, going 7-of-18 for 15 points.

"A little bit indecisive, not aggressive enough finishing," Gasol said of his offensive performance. "I didn't finish strong enough. I was just kind of floating a few shots and they weren't going in."

The Lakers hold a 2-1 advantage in the Western Conference finals. Game 4 of the best-of-seven series is Tuesday in San Antonio.

Jackson said he's "comfortable we can get Lamar back on track."

"Once it gets going bad for him, there's a lot of times he can't turn his game around in the course of the night," Jackson said. "So that's one of the things we keep talking about, finding a way to recapture your ball game even though things haven't gone well for you early."

While league MVP Kobe Bryant may be as close to a one-man team as there is—his four fourth-quarter 3-pointers got the Lakers as close as 12 late in Game 3—more help from Odom, Gasol and Fisher could go a long way toward the Lakers stealing one in San Antonio.

"I don't think they did anything differently," Bryant said of Gasol and Odom's shooting. "I think they just missed a lot that they usually normally make, so you just chalk it up."

Jackson said Fisher simply needs more shots.

"We've got to get six, eight shots for him, in that kind of minutes where he has an opportunity to help us," Jackson said.

Fisher and Odom also struggled in the Lakers' come-from-behind Game 1 victory. Odom scored eight points on 3-of-12 shooting in the 89-85 win and Fisher had four points while going 1-of-9.

The Lakers shot nearly 43 percent (35-of-82) from the field in Game 3, but the Spurs hit 38-of-74 (51 percent), including 10 3-pointers.

Manu Ginobili hit five 3s and broke out of his shooting slump to lead San Antonio with 30 points off the bench. Bryant led the Lakers with 30.

"Making shots is part of it. And we did a better job of that," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "They (Los Angeles) missed some shots that could have gone in without a doubt."

Offense aside, Tim Duncan said the Spurs always return to their old standby: defense.

"We have to contain them, limit what they do," Duncan said. "They have the best scorer in the league. He can get off in stretches. We have to be able to contain the rest of their team and understand that defense is what's going to get us over the hump."

Now it's the Lakers trying to get over the hump of Sunday's loss as they look for a Game 4 win—one Bryant said the Lakers want "in the worst way"—to set up the chance to eliminate the defending champions in five games.

Fisher said doing that requires both keeping the Game 3 loss close, and also letting go of it.

"I think you hold on to the fact that it's very frustrating and very disappointing in the sense that we couldn't give ourselves a chance to win the game," Fisher said. "So you hold on to some of that frustration, some of that resentment that you have for the opponent. You keep that.

"But you let go of the fact that you lost a game. ... You get past that part of it and you keep your focus on the things that will motivate you and help you to win the next game."

Federer, Jankovic advance to second round

PARIS (AP)—Roger Federer made a winning return to the French Open, the only Grand Slam title that has eluded him. The top-ranked Federer beat Sam Querrey of the United States 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 Monday in the first round at Roland Garros, where the 12-time major champion is trying to become only the sixth man to complete a career Grand Slam.

Federer was broken once early in the first set, but he managed to win five times on Querrey's serve.

"Once I got settled I played a little bit more better," Federer said. "I was able to create myself a few opportunities against his serve, which was sort of good. ... Give me a few days now again to practice, and hopefully I can play a bit better the next match."

On the women's side, No. 3 Jelena Jankovic and No. 8 Venus Williams advanced before play was suspended for the day because of rain. Williams joined sister Serena in the second round, but she struggled in the second set before beating Tzipora Obziler of Israel 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

"It's nice to have a quick match but it's nice to have a challenge also," said Williams, who had eight double-faults. "I'm glad at the end that I figured it out."

Federer has played well on clay this season, despite having already lost seven times this year—more than he lost in the entire season in 2004, '05 and '06.

He won his only title of the year on clay in Estoril, Portugal, when Nikolay Davydenko retired from the final with a leg injury. Federer then reached the final at the Monte Carlo Masters and the Hamburg Masters, losing both times to Rafael Nadal.

"I've played well all clay-court season long," Federer said. "Didn't have many hiccups really, and I have plenty of matches. That was my goal as well. By playing Estoril, I was hoping to get that before Paris."

Nadal, who is undefeated at Roland Garros, has also beaten Federer in the last two French Open finals and in the 2005 semifinals. He was to start his quest for a fourth straight French Open title against Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil, but the rain postponed his match until Tuesday.

Querrey was making his second appearance at the French Open. He also lost in the first round last year.

"He's an up and coming player who's got a good serve and big shots," Federer said.

The third-seeded Jankovic got a little love from the net to help her beat Monica Niculescu 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Leading 4-2 in the first-set tiebreaker, last year's French Open semifinalist had a drop volley hit the top of the net and roll along the tape before falling into the opposite court.

Jankovic put her hand up as if to say, "Sorry." The Serb then bent down and kissed the white tape.

In the second set, Jankovic lost her serve after breaking her Romanian opponent in the opening game, then dominated the rest of the match.

The first set was when she had the most trouble, despite jumping out to a 3-0 lead.

"She hit quite good drop shots and I got a little bit confused, because, first of all, I didn't know her game, I didn't know how she plays, and I didn't know what to expect from her," Jankovic said. "And then I started making some errors and I lost my rhythm a little bit."

Williams led 4-1 in the second set but Obziler won five straight games to even the match. The Israeli then broke Williams in the opening game of the deciding set, but the eighth-seeded American broke back to level the score at 1-1, and then broke again to take a 3-1 lead.

After trading two more breaks, Williams won twice more on Obziler's serve.

The 27-year-old Williams, a six-time Grand Slam champion who has never won the French Open, is the oldest woman currently ranked in the top 10. Obziler, at 35, is the oldest woman in the field at Roland Garros.

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia, the youngest person in the singles tournament at 16, reached the second round by beating Maria Emilia Salerni of Argentina 6-1, 6-1.

No. 10 Patty Schnyder, No. 12 Agnes Szavay and No. 32 Karin Knapp also advanced, while No. 23 Alona Bondarenko lost to Petra Cetkovska 6-3, 6-0.

Richard Gasquet withdrew from the French Open because of a left knee injury. The eighth-seeded Frenchman pulled out shortly before he was scheduled to play Florent Serra. Santiago Giraldo of Colombia replaced Gasquet in the draw, and lost to Serra 6-4, 6-3, 6-2.

Florian Mayer of Germany also withdrew. Mayer, who will be replaced by Evgeny Korolev of Russia, pulled out because of gastroenteritis. Korolev will now face Fabrice Santoro in the first round.

No. 17 Marco Baghdatis, the 2006 Australian Open runner-up, lost to Simone Bolelli of Italy 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 in the first round of the men's draw.

"That's the way it is. That's tennis," said Baghdatis, who was returning to the game after more than a month off for personal reasons. "He played better than I did today."

Tommy Robredo, the 12th-seeded player, rallied to beat 2004 French Open finalist Guillermo Coria 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4 on center court.

Coria was playing at Roland Garros for the first time in three years. He missed much of the past two seasons with a right shoulder injury and had played in only four tour-level events since the 2006 U.S. Open.

No. 29 Guillermo Canas also lost, falling to Wayne Odesnik of the United States 7-6 (6), 7-6 (3), 7-6 (8), while No. 11 Tomas Berdych, No. 22 Fernando Verdasco and No. 24 Fernando Gonzalez advanced.

AP

Switzerland's Roger Federer returns the ball to United States player Sam Querrey during their first round match at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Monday May 26, 2008.

Teixeira leads Braves over Diamondbacks, 7-3

ATLANTA(AP)—Mark Teixeira drove in four runs to help the Atlanta Braves beat Brandon Webb and the Arizona Diamondbacks 7-3 in the National League on Monday.

Webb (9-2) allowed seven runs—four earned—and a season-high 10 hits in 4 1-3 innings, his shortest start since Oct. 1, 2006. He won his first nine decisions before losing 3-1 at Florida last Wednesday.

Webb struck out eight, walked three and fell behind 5-1 in the second inning. The hits were the most he allowed since San Diego had 11 last July 15.

Cubs 3, Dodgers 1

At Chicago, Derrek Lee and Aramis Ramirez homered to back Ryan Dempster for Chicago against Los Angeles.

Lee hit a two-run drive in the first inning off Chad Billingsley (4-6) for his 250th home run, and Ramirez added a solo homer against Scott Proctor in the eighth.

Dempster (6-2) gave the bullpen some rest after the Cubs combined to use 11 relievers in consecutive extra-inning losses at Pittsburgh. He allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings before Bob Howry and Kerry Wood finished.

Brewers 4, Nationals 3, 11 innings

At Washington, pinch-hitter Gabe Kapler singled home a run in the 11th inning for Milwaukee.

Prince Fielder led off the 11th with an opposite-field double to left against an exaggerated shift, then moved to third on Corey Hart's sacrifice bunt. After Russell Branyan struck out, Kapler lined the first pitch from Saul Rivera (3-2) to center for an RBI single.

Marlins 7, Mets 3

At New York, after embattled Mets manager Willie Randolph had a much-anticipated meeting with ownership, New York lost for the seventh time in eight games. General manager Omar Minaya said Randolph's job wasn't in danger going into the session.

Luis Gonzalez hit a three-run double for NL East-leading Florida.

Jose Reyes homered twice for the Mets but committed a two-out error at shortstop in the first that led to two unearned runs. Mike Pelfrey (2-6) lost his sixth straight start, allowing six runs—four earned—and six hits in four innings.

Phillies 20, Rockies 5

At Philadelphia, Chase Utley drove in a career-best six runs, Jamie Moyer (5-3) had a season-high seven strikeouts and Philadelphia scored its most runs since a 21-8 win over Chicago on July 3, 1999.

Utley hit a three-run shot to tie Lance Berkman and Dan Uggla for the major league lead with 16 homers. Utley finished 3-for-6, Chris Coste added a three-run homer and Pedro Feliz had four hits and four RBIs.

Orioles 6, Yankees 1

At Baltimore, Garrett Olson pitched seven innings of three-hit ball, Nick Markakis went 3-for-4 with a home run, and the Baltimore Orioles ended the New York Yankees' five-game winning streak.

Aubrey Huff also homered for the Orioles, who snapped a five-game skid that began with successive defeats in New York. Markakis is 9-for-11 with two doubles and a homer against Darrell Rasner (3-1), who gave up one run and five hits in six innings.

Hideki Matsui had three of New York's five hits and scored the Yankees' lone run, on a ninth-inning single by Chad Moeller.

Blue Jays 7, Royals 2

At Toronto, Shaun Marcum won for the first time in four starts, Gregg Zaun hit a two-run homer and Toronto completed its first four-game sweep of Kansas City.

Marcum (5-3) gave up two runs—one earned—and five hits in 7 1-3 innings, lowering his ERA to 2.64. He struck out six and walked one. The Kansas City native is 3-1 with an 1.09 ERA in seven career games against his hometown team.

Rays 7, Rangers 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Scott Kazmir won his fourth straight start, striking out 10 in seven innings to lead American League East-leading Tampa Bay over Texas.

Eric Hinske hit a three-run homer for the Rays, who have won 16 of their last 17 home games and at 31-20 have the best record in the major leagues. Tampa Bay is just the second team—joining the 1903 New York Giants—to have the best mark on Memorial Day after finishing with the worst record in the big leagues the previous season (66-96).

Kazmir (4-1) retired his first 10 batters, seven on strikeouts, before Michael Young singled to center with one out in the fourth.

White Sox 6, Indians 3, 12 innings

At Cleveland, Orlando Cabrera's fourth hit drove in the go-ahead run in the 12th inning and Chicago handed Cleveland its ninth loss in 10 games.

Boone Logan (2-1) pitched a perfect 1 1-3 innings for the win and Bobby Jenks got the final three outs for his 13th save in 15 chances.

Jenks allowed two singles, then got Jhonny Peralta to hit into a double play and struck out Franklin Gutierrez to become the second-fastest reliever to notch 100 career saves, doing so in 187 games. Kazuhiro Sasaki did it in 160.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Bartolo Colon showed flashes of his Cy Young days, shutting down Seattle for seven innings, and Dustin Pedroia's RBI ground-rule double scored the go-ahead run as Boston scored four times in the eighth for a win over Seattle.

David Ortiz added a long solo homer in the fourth and Manny Ramirez rattled the outfield wall with a run-scoring single as part of Boston's eighth inning rally, as the Red Sox snapped their seven-game road losing streak, their longest skid away from Fenway Park in nearly seven years.

Angels 1, Tigers 0, 12 innings

At Anaheim, California, Detroit's Bobby Seay walked Garret Anderson on four pitches with the bases loaded and one out in the 12th inning to force home the winning run.

Anderson was the only batter Seay faced after replacing Freddy Dolsi (0-1).

Detroit and its high-priced lineup was shut out for a major league-high eighth time this season. The inconsistent Tigers had scored a total of 54 runs over a five-game stretch before they lost 1-0 to Minnesota on Sunday.

Tinian triathlon and reef swim this June 14

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim will be held next month on the beautiful island of Tinian.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, the island's signature sporting event will unfold off scenic Taga Beach on June 14.

The vigorous and challenging triathlon course starts with a 1.5-kilometer swim and transitions into an extreme 40-km biking experience. The event finishes with a brisk 10-km run.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of last year's 8th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon start the race from Taga Beach on the sound of the bullhorn. This year's event will take place on June 14.

The weekend sporting extravaganza also returns with the always spectacular Reef Swim this year and like previous editions, organizers will be offering two types of categories—type A which is a 1.5-km swim and type B which is a 3-km swim.

Representatives from Kaike Triathlon and members of the KFC Triathlon Club of Japan already have signed up for the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim.

The annual triathlon is supported by the Tinian Mayor's Office, KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and MVA.

Organizers said all participants are asked to sign a waiver release form where they need to read and agree on the conditions for the race and agree not to sue race organizers in case of injuries suffered while participating in the event.

Last year, former Saipan resident Stuart Smith won the race with a blistering time of two hours, 23 minutes, and 47 seconds, while Japan's Hiromi Sato came in third overall to become the women's top finisher, 2:36:11.

Registration fee for the solo triathlon is $80, while for the team each member needs to pay $60, which is the same amount for the reef swim. Payments are accepted on cash basis only and the final day of payment can be made on Tinian on June 13.

The entrance fee includes an event T-shirt, swim cap, and dinner for the awards party at 6pm at the Taga Beach. The final day of registration will be on June 13 from 5pm to 8pm at the poolside of the Tinian Dynasty.

A pre-race briefing will also be held on June 13 from 6pm to 7pm also at the poolside.

Those interested can pick up an application form at the MVA office from 8am to 5pm. Participants will receive a T-shirt along with an invitation to the awards banquet.

For more information about the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim, call Frank Tudela or Edward Diaz at 664-3200 or e-mail at ediaz@mymarianas.com or ftudela@mymarianas.com

MVA Tinian's Benedicta Borja can also be reached at 433-9365, while those in Japan can contact Kiyokazu Onishi of KFC Triathlon Club Japan at 81-428-31-4911 or kfc-onishi@gem.hi-ho.ne.jp.

LEONG

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two daughters, Iris and Ivy. He said his family has always been supportive of his bowling hobby and for that sacrifice he will always be grateful to them.

Leong knocked down 200 or more pinfalls in 10 of 12 games last Sunday en route to winning the men's masters at the Oleai bowling venue.

The Multi-Line Supply sales manager proved his All Events win on Saturday was no fluke by finishing with a pinfall total of 2,543, good for an average of 211.92.

Leong started out with a couple of 200-plus games (206 and 202) before rolling a pedestrian 179 in the third game. He soon found his rhythm after that, stringing together seven games where he averaged a scorching 218.5 pinfalls.

After a momentary hiccup in the 11th game, which saw him uncharacteristically score a 168, Leong capped his amazing afternoon with a high 258 in the 12th and final game.

Last Saturday, Ron Cal successfully defended her championship in the women's division after tattooing 2,226 pinfalls, good for a 185 average. She was followed by 2007 runner-up Diane Camacho with her 2,108 pinfalls and 175.67 average.

Yho Villavicencio wound up third with a pinfall total of 2,024 and a per game average of 168.67. All Events winner Gina Sablan and Elena Soll completed the Top 5 with pinfalls of 2,016 (168 average) and 1,995 (166.25), respectively.

In the men's team competition, the foursome of Raymond Zapanta, Raymond Angeles, Kitz Barja, and Leong nosed out favorites Robert Talavera, Jon Hensley, Paul Pangelinan, and Alex Cacdac (2,453-2,214).

Other winners of the May Masters were Leong (singles event), Zapanta and Angeles (doubles), Rita Palacios (women's singles), Soll and Villavicencio (women's doubles), and Cal, Sablan, Gigi Zapanta, and Gloria Omechalang (women's team).

The three-day May Masters was organized by the Saipan Bowling Association and was sponsored in part by JET Holdings, MARPAC-Budweiser, Saipan Grand Hotel, Club V, the Marianas Visitors Authority, PTI, and Saipan Bowling Center CNMI.

WISER

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"As part of their training, I encouraged and sent them out to play for other teams in the FMI league. There, they will experience playing with older and bigger players and adjust to their various styles of play," Aguon said.

The open division of FMI league features several of the best players on the island who are also regulars in the Bud Cup, one of the toughest local tournaments.

Jericho Cruz is one of the members of the Junior Nationals who is playing in the FMI league. Cruz was the top scorer for the Junior Nationals in the MBT and continues to show his offensive prowess with the Sonny Flores-coached Ol'Aces in the FMI caging. His Junior Nationals teammate Marvin Rabauliman is also playing for the Ol'Aces.

Of the 11 players that made it to the MBT last year, only eight will be back for the NMI and will be eligible to play in the Oceania tournament. Joining Cruz and Rabauliman on the team are Bill Babauta, Damien Deleon Guererro, Jayvan Tarkong, Allen Moses, Keoni Chariton, and Steven Tenorio. Frank Basa, Won Joo Jung and Jerome Norita are over the age limit.

Aguon is still looking for players to fill up the two vacant slots as the NMI is allowed to field only 10 players for the Oceania caging. He is hoping to name the team in July.

Interested players who were born on or after Jan. 1, 1999, can still join the regular training being conducted at the NMC Gym.

"The training is doing okay and the boys are getting stronger and faster. We train twice a week with some basketball games in between," said Aguon. "They are progressing well. Of course, sometimes I am impatient when they commit mistakes. But you see perfection is what we strive for. This team will be much wiser than the team that competed in the last MBT. I just hope that it is enough. We still got a couple of months to prepare so will make the most of it."

Aside from having a wiser team, Aguon is hoping to build a fast-breaking and defense-oriented team

"We have to be a fast-breaking team with tenacious defense. We must also hit our outside shot consistently because we will be playing against bigger and taller players," said Aguon, who will have the Junior Nationals play as one team in the upcoming BANMI 25-and-under caging.

The 25-and-under caging will be the final tune-up tournament for the Junior Nationals before they head to Guam in the last week of September for the Oceania caging, which will feature teams from Australia, Palau, New Caledonia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu .

Outstanding players from each team will be selected for the Oceania all-star squad, which will then play in the U20 Australian National Championships in Brisbane next year. ***(RM)***

GEC

From Page 28

took a 61-60 advantage heading into the fourth and final quarter.

In the payoff period, Sonny Ranola waxed hot from the outside as he almost single-handedly towed GEC Pawnshop to victory with his 15-point fourth quarter explosion.

Jinang, Adonis Macoto, and Edel Carino tried to swing favor back to CTSI Pacers but their efforts fell short as their team absorbed its fifth loss in eight games.

Cacho led all scorers with 35 markers, while Ranola added 18. Jinang and Tobias scored 27 and 23, respectively, in the loss.

Tasi Tours, meanwhile, controlled the fast-breaking Shirley's team in the final 10 minutes despite trailing in the first three quarters of the contest.

Ranola again shown in the win, as he fired another 15 points in the fourth quarter to help the Giants tie their victims at 5-3 in the open division standings.

Ranola paced Tasi Tours with 33 with Ehroll Peredo adding 31. Elmer Esdrelon tossed in 21 in the setback, while Ryan Sanciangco and Darwin Barbo chipped in 17 apiece.

First Game

GEC Pawnshop 91 – Cacho 35, Ranola 18, Viola 7, Peleno 7, Casabuena 6, Villafuerte 6, Buenabajo 4, Olivos 4, Peredo 4.

CTSI Pacers 88 – Jinang 27, Macoto 23, Tobias 15, Carino 13, Alejandro 8, Solidum 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-21, 42-41, 60-61, 91-88.

Referees: Dado Vistal and Eric Artillaga.

Second Game

Bank of Saipan 86 – Ocampo 31, Delos Santos 16, Gatdula 16, Tiples 12, Villegas 8, Lopez 2, Mamuta 1.

Fixers 71 – Dela Torre 24, Delfin 14, Villasan 10, Poquiz 9, Garcia 7, Castanares 7.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 39-38, 59-50, 86-71.

Referees: Jess Pabula and Gilbert Espinosa.

Third Game

Tasi Tours Giants 104 – Ranola 33, E. Peredo 31, Aquino 12, Factor 12, R. Peredo 5, Joyner 5, Talania 4, De Belen 2.

Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue House 100 – Esdrelon 21, Sanciangco 17, Barbo 17, Santos 12, Guiab 7, Mercurio 6, Rasa 6, Marasigan 6, Manibusan 4, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-30, 45-50, 71-76, 104-100.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Gilbert Espinosa.

Fourth Game

Star Water 90 – Samson 24, Gapor 18, Lopez 14, Rapanut 14, Mateo 12, Villasan 8.

MIGS 81 – Dela Rama 30, Cabaddu 16, Poquiz 10, Macoto 9, Quemado 8, Cadagat 4, Salvani 3, Doronila 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-20, 46-41, 63-65, 90-81.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Noel Delos Santos.

5 SWIMMERS

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Swimming Championships.

Shin's younger brother, 12-year-old Kensuke, meanwhile will only take part in the breastroke events of the meet, as his goal is to achieve the qualifying time for this summer's Junior Olympics.

The only rose among the thorns, Welch, is also expected to bring home not one but multiple medals from Guam.

Meanwhile, coach Kimura said 17-year-old Villegas is not expected to win any individual medals in the Guam meet, but said his chances are good that he will take home some hardware in the relay events.

"Our biggest goal in this meet is to win a medal for the relay and to present Daniel the medal. That's why none of our relay members will take part in their last individual events so they would be ready for the relay. One for all, all for one," he said.

Villegas only started competitive swimming last October and the 2008 Guam Swimming Championships will be his last meet before going to the mainland this summer for college.

"Daniel only started swimming with us late last year. He improved greatly since then and he is well loved by all his teammates. His effort and fighting spirit has touched a lot of people, not only his teammates," said coach Kimura.

Wong, the Kimura brothers, Welch, and Villegas will depart Saipan tomorrow, May 29.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	31	20	.608	_
Boston	32	22	.593	1/2
Toronto	28	25	.528	4
Baltimore	25	25	.500	5 1/2
New York	25	26	.490	6

Central Division

Chicago	28	22	.560	_
Minnesota	25	25	.500	3
Cleveland	23	28	.451	5 1/2
Detroit	21	30	.412	7 1/2
Kansas City	21	30	.412	7 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	31	22	.585	_
Oakland	28	23	.549	2
Texas	26	27	.491	5
Seattle	18	34	.346	12 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Florida	30	20	.600	_
Atlanta	28	23	.549	2 1/2
Philadelphia	29	24	.547	2 1/2
New York	23	26	.469	6 1/2
Washington	22	30	.423	9

Central Division

Chicago	30	21	.588	_
St. Louis	30	22	.577	1/2
Houston	29	23	.558	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	24	26	.480	5 1/2
Milwaukee	24	27	.471	6
Cincinnati	23	28	.451	7

West Division

Arizona	30	21	.588	_
Los Angeles	26	24	.520	3 1/2
Colorado	20	31	.392	10
San Francisco	20	31	.392	10
San Diego	19	33	.365	11 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 7, Kansas City 2
Baltimore 6, N.Y. Yankees 1
Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 3, 12 innings
Tampa Bay 7, Texas 3
L.A. Angels 1, Detroit 0, 12 innings
Boston 5, Seattle 3
Atlanta 7, Arizona 3
Milwaukee 4, Washington 3, 11 innings
Chicago Cubs 3, L.A. Dodgers 1
Philadelphia 20, Colorado 5
Florida 7, N.Y. Mets 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

FMI Standings

Open division

Ol'Aces	7	1
Advance X-Terminators	7	1
GEC Pawnshop	5	3
Shirley's Coffee Shop	5	3
TASI Tours	5	3
SMF-Seabridge	3	5
Price Costco	3	5
Starwater	1	7
MIGS	0	8

Masters division

Taga Warriors	6	2
GEC Pawnshop	6	2
Tan Holdings CTSI	4	4
Bank of Saipan	3	5
Fixers	1	7

2008 Senior League Championship

Photos By MARK RABAGO

Defending champion Jets flash the No. 1 sign after their 9-8 come-from-behind win over the Fielders in the finals of the 2008 Senior League last Monday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Jets players and coaching staff celebrate on the mound after their comeback victory over the Fielders in the Senior League finals Monday.

The Jets players shake hands with the Fielders in a show of sportsmanship after the two teams battled for the championship of the Senior League.

A Fielders player slides at the plate in the fourth inning, where the team scored three runs to take an 8-7 lead against the Jets.

Jets' Eli Aughenbach scores the tying run in the top of the seventh after an error by one of the Fielders' infielders.

First baseman Ryan Lisua waits for action to start in the late inning of their Senior League finals game against the Fielders.

Jets players are in a huddle moments after capturing the Senior League championship.

Fielders relief pitcher Tom Agulto throws hard from the mound against the Jets.

Chris Myers shut down the Fielders in the final three innings to set the table for the Jets' improbable comeback.

Jets relief pitcher Chris Myers gets ready to pitch against the Fielders.

Tinian triathlon and reef swim this June 14

The 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim will be held next month on the beautiful island of Tinian. 26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

McDyess scores 21; Pistons beat Celtics, tie series

Antonio McDyess refused to let the Detroit Pistons get pushed to the brink of elimination. McDyess had his best game of the playoffs, scoring 21 points and grabbing 16 rebounds. 24

5 swimmers off to Guam Champs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan team bound for this weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships holds up a Tsunami Saipan banner underwater. From left, Rezne Wong, Daniel Villegas, Kensuke Kimura, Marystar Welch, and Shin Kimura.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will be sending five of its top swimmers in this weekend's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships at the Hagatna Swimming Pool in Guam.

According to head coach Hiro Kimura leading the crack five-person team is the CNMI's top swimmer Rezne Wong, brothers Shin and Kensuke Kimura, Marystar Welch, and Daniel Villegas.

The 2008 Guam Swimming Championships is the final meet of the Guam Swimming Federation for the year and only swimmers that meet qualifying times based on "BB" and U.S. time standards are allowed to compete.

Coach Kimura said he expects nothing less than a bumper-crop of medals from Wong, the 17-year-old wunderkind from the Marianas High School who, save for this year's virtual meet, has been undefeated in the pool this season.

"He must take home a lot of gold medals," said coach Kimura.

He also expects a lot from his son, Shin, who has slowly become the islands' No. 2 long distance swimmer. Coach Kimura said Shin will compete in the 800m freestyle in the 2008 Guam

See 5 SWIMMERS on Page 26

GEC is co-leader in masters, Giants upset Shirley's

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

GEC Pawnshop drew level with pacesetter Taga Warriors in the masters division after nipping CTSI Pacers, 99-81, last Sunday in the continuation of the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was the sixth win in eight games for the Pawn Brokers, who had to erase an early deficit and fend off a pesky CTSI Pacers team at crunchtime.

In other masters game, Bank of Saipan pounced on a manpower-challenged Fixers team, 86-71, to level its win-loss card to 4-4.

Two other games in the open division were also played last Sunday with Tasi Tours Giants scoring a 104-100 upset of Shirley's Coffee Shop/Blue House and Star Water getting the better of MIGS, 90-81, in the battle of winless teams.

Drawing 12 points from Ariel Jinang, CTSI Pacers took the early advantage and led 21-13 after the first quarter against GEC Pawnshop.

The Pawn Brokers, however, hunkered down to work after that, as Molly Cacho and Abel Villafuerte combined for 14 points to help the team take a candlestick 42-41 lead at the break.

It was a seesaw battle in the third with both teams exchanging the lead. But CTSI Pacers had the last say and

See GEC on Page 26

Leong sets sights for Bowler of the Year

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

With the 2008 May Masters title in the bag Sunday and the King of the Lanes on his trophy cabinet since January 2006, only the Bowler of the Year title remains elusive to veteran lefty Richard Leong.

Leong, who topped last weekend's 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament men's division at the Saipan Bowling Center, said he will train harder for the 2008 Bowler of the Year set for this coming July to finally complete his collection of major bowling tournaments on Saipan.

The 39-year-old native of Manila, Philippines, said he owes his May Masters victory to CNMI national bowling coach Sarah Yap.

He said Yap gave him pointers and helped him adjust his throw late last year and that resulted in improving his consistency.

While he has maintained his average at the Capital Bowling Center, his average at the much older SBC has improved by leaps and bounds.

The change to a lighter ball from the 16-pounder he was accustomed also gave Leong more energy to finish tournaments and this was apparent in last Sunday's competition when he held off a late charge by Dannie Robles to secure the title.

Leong also dedicated his win to his wife Essel and their

See LEONG on Page 26

MARK RABAGO

May Masters men's champion Richard Leong poses with women's champion Ron Cal during the awards ceremony of the 26th CNMI May Masters Bowling Tournament held last Sunday at Club V of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Wiser Jr. Nationals preparing for Oceania Under-19 caging

NMI Junior Nationals coach Rufino Aguon will have a wiser crew for the FIBA Oceania Under-19 Youth Basketball Tournament, which will run from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4 in Guam.

The Oceania youth caging will be the second regional tournament for the Junior Nationals since the team was formed early last year.

Aguon's wards first played in the Micronesian Basketball Tournament, which Guam also hosted in November last year.

The Junior Nationals fell short of their goal of making it to the finals when they finished only third behind Guam and the Southern Sonics.

Lapses in the playoffs foiled the Junior Nationals' finals bid. They swept their pool play games, but lost to the Saipan-based Southern Sonics in the semifinals.

Aguon said the Junior Nationals have learned from their mistakes in the MBT and are now showing maturity during their training for the Oceania tournament.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jericho Cruz is one of the members of the Junior Nationals who is playing in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League

"This team will be much wiser than the team that competed in the MBT. They are maturing in their game and it shows on the teams they are playing with in the FMI league," Aguon said.

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